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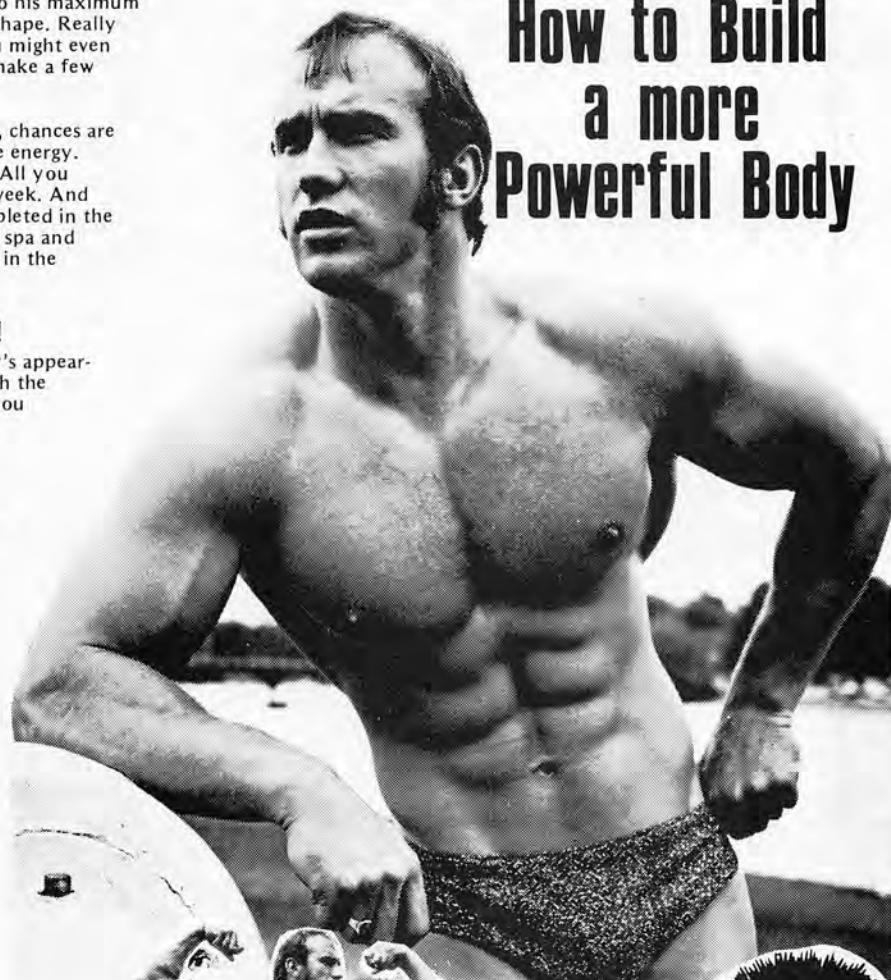
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INSIDE

Wrestling

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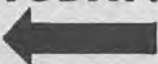
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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Peter
King
Editor-in-Chief

Once again, it is time to put the sport of wrestling in perspective.

This is the column I call "Random Thoughts."

1. Perhaps we all bear responsibility for the Larry Zbyszko tragedy. Now that he's in the spotlight, we all see just how talented a wrestler he is. Yet we all tended to ignore him before.

2. If anyone asked me who the greatest natural athlete in the sport is I'd say it was a toss-up between Ernie Ladd and Ken Patera.

3. Wrestling is a sport which attracts the most brutal people in the world. But The Samoans have gone too far. They should be banned.

4. Kevin Von Erich is the last best hope to save wrestling from drowning in the filth of rulebreakers' control.

5. I've watched Hulk Hogan wrestle at least 30 times now, and I still can't believe a human being can be so awesome.

6. When Ric Flair and Greg Valentine go to war, do not buy a ring-side seat unless you're wearing a raincoat. The blood is gonna flow!

7. In an exclusive interview with Italian journalist Angelina Giannini, Dusty Rhodes said if he doesn't win the NWA title before the end of 1980 he will retire.

8. Did you know that Nick Bockwinkel is the only world champion who does not have to make mandatory title defenses? With a smart manager behind him, Bockwinkel could avoid top contenders forever.

9. Maybe it's just me, but I find it hard to cheer for Pat Patterson. I remember too many limp bodies carried off on stretchers to be comfortable considering him a fan favorite.

10. Recently, I attended a match in which Andre the Giant battled Harley Race for the NWA belt. Five seconds after the bell sounded, Race was desperate for a disqualification. This man is a champion?

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TOP SECRET

Behind the Dressing Room Door

by Stu
Saks



SOMETHING SNAPPED INSIDE Bugsy McGraw's head. Several of his "friends" were pummeling Dusty Rhodes into a bloody pulp, yet he could not join the fun. McGraw stood dazed on the ring apron, glaring into the crowd but seeing no one. Images flashed through his mind.

Kate Smith was singing "God Bless America." The U.S. Olympic hockey team in wild celebration after defeating the Soviets at Lake Placid. A Chevrolet filled with apple pies.

McGraw shook his head violently, bringing himself back to the reality of the situation. In the ring, "The American Dream," was being stripped of both his pride and his skin. And something snapped.

Enraged, Bugsy rushed into the ring. Clapping his hands together, he slugged Nikolai Volkoff across the back of the head. The Russian fell to the mat, turned his head back to see what hit him, caught a glimpse of McGraw's crazed expression, and led the rulebreakers' quick departure from the ring.

Bugsy helped Rhodes to the dressing room where I received an exclusive interview. "All I can say," McGraw said in his usual philosophic tone, "is that I was brought up to be a good American. I was taught to respect and carry out the principles of our Constitution. I was very touched by our Olympic effort and I fully support what this country is doing around the world. I love my country and everything it stands for.

"Dusty Rhodes, I believe, stands for everything good this

(Continued on page 48)

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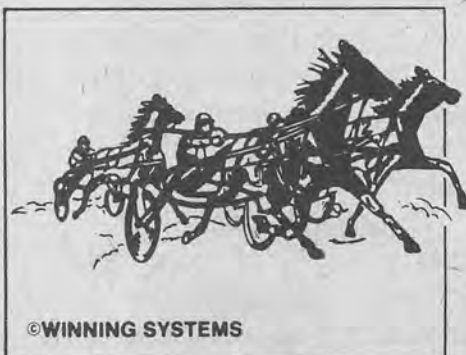
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Body Slams & Pinfalls

By Dan Shocket

WHO WOULD HAVE guessed that somewhere in Larry Zbyszko there lurked a man?

Today, the young grappler stands alone. He has turned his back on Bruno Sammartino, the man who felt Larry's best interests were to be under Bruno's thumb. It took an incredible match to turn these two into enemies, but the savagery was worth it. Zbyszko has shown the world what Bruno Sammartino is really like.

It takes a special kind of louse to call a man "friend" and then keep that friend back. Sammartino has done this to Zbyszko for years. The young man is much better than Sammartino ever let him be. Bruno may look stupid, but he's shrewd when it comes to protecting his career. Sammartino took one look at Larry and knew the young grappler could beat him easily. So Bruno did something about it.

Everyone knows the story, though few people know the truth. Bruno proclaimed he was helping Larry become a star. He would bring along the

young athlete slowly. He would treat Larry like a son. Actually, he would treat Larry like a child. Bruno's idea of friendship: if you can't keep them away, keep them down. And he kept Larry down.

How many times did Bruno run into the match when Zbyszko was in



Larry Zbyszko puts his hands around Bruno Sammartino's throat.

trouble? Supposedly he did it to help his young friend. How brave. How kind. How clever to keep Zbyszko thinking he needs Bruno to save him.

Though most wrestlers won't say it for publication, they believe Zbyszko could've saved himself. And if not, a beating isn't the worst thing that could happen to a young wrestler. It's part of the learning

process. Sammartino purposely crippled Zbyszko's confidence by running in when no help was necessary.

It's no secret that Zbyszko has until now not reached his potential. Smothered by Sammartino's "concern," Zbyszko never had the room to learn and grow. He tried every way he knew to get Sammartino away from him. The only thing that succeeded was to battle Sammartino in the ring.

Even then, Sammartino did everything possible to strip Zbyszko of his dignity. Bruno stressed that he wouldn't try to hurt Zbyszko. In other words, Larry isn't good enough for Sammartino to seriously consider as an opponent. Yeah, Bruno gave him a match. All he asked in return was that Zbyszko be treated like a second-class citizen. Larry was second class and Bruno had no class at all.

The match was fairly predictable. You could see in Larry's eyes that the pressure was intense. It was

(Continued on page 62)

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- How to Keep Evil Forces Away!

miracles happen in their daily lives!

You'll see how Vern, a man who likes to give a lot of expensive parties, was always short of cash until he discovered the amazing WITCH'S MONEY JAR—now all he has to do is dip in, for it brings him an endless flow of cash! Evelyn, a waitress, was always lending money to friends, and was always broke. Finally, she placed her last dollar on the table, and worked the MONEY MAGNET SPELL over it. All at once, dozens of people who had borrowed money from her, rushed to pay her back!

Hank was perpetually broke. One night he got together with some friends, and they decided to cast the MONEY SPELL. The very next day, Hank received in the mail a check for some \$250 worth of insurance. (He had never heard of the company that sent the check, he was not insured with them, and had never even made a claim—but he accepted the money.) Another member of the group that used the spell, a 40-year-old secretary, received an automobile as a gift! All the other members of the group received amazing windfalls of money, as well! You'll see how Dexter, a retiree, lives RENT FREE and receives \$200 a week at the age of 78, with a secret you'll find in this Witch Book! You'll see how Claudine, a secretary, was able to wear the finest, most expensive furs—FREE—and spend weekends at an expensive ski lodge in the mountains, where she met a wonderful man! How Ruth L., a widow—with nothing but a small pension, and a little savings—received her dream house, by using a simple 5-minute ritual on page 38 of this book!

Using the same Witchcraft secrets, YOU can achieve peace of mind and freedom from money worries for the rest of your life!

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Feeling sick today? Plagued by a lot of troublesome illnesses? Perhaps some relative is sick and constantly demanding your attention? Or perhaps it is even a pet that needs help? With the MAGIC POWER OF WITCHCRAFT, you can cure anything, say authors Gavin and Yvonne Frost: "In our experience... we have not found a single incurable disease!"

• **ANDY DISSOLVES A GALLSTONE!**—Andy M. developed gallstones. When his illness became too troublesome to ignore, he went to a doctor. Urine tests revealed that he was chronically alkaline. His body was badly out of balance. Using this Witchcraft method to restore balance to the mind and body—in a short while, X-rays showed that he had no more gallstones! Andy never again suffered the excruciating pain of passing stones!

In the same way, say Gavin and Yvonne Frost, almost all illness can be prevented. You are actually employing an ancient Witchcraft method to remove diseased tissue! Even if you do not have any belief in the results, the power will work for you!

One woman, who had been in a wheelchair for 26 years, due to polio and arthritis, used the Witchcraft healing method, and reported that she had no pain and could walk and garden again! A man reported that his son's deep 3rd degree burns miraculously healed overnight!

• **SO SIMPLE A CHILD USES IT!**—A 4-year-old girl asked if she could try to heal a man who was limping—due to a torn ligament—with this simple Witchcraft healing method. In a matter of moments, she started her chant, laying her hands on the weak ankle. The man was miraculously cured! To skeptics, this should be convincing PROOF that anyone can use it!

AMAZING POWER CAN BE YOURS!

Whether you want infinite wealth, or just a comfortable new home, financial security, fine possessions, love, companionship, new health and vigor, power to control others, secret knowledge, protection from evil, or anything else, the magic power of Witchcraft can bring it to you quickly, easily and automatically! It's the easiest thing in the world!

• **HOW TO SEE INTO THE FUTURE!**—Would you like to be able to see the future? YOU CAN with the magic Black Mirror you'll see how to make on page 23. All you need is some ink and a bowl of water. Then use the chart on this page, and you will be able to see many things. One man uses it to read tomorrow's newspaper, YOU can use it to check the stock market or that important horse race!

• **MAKE TIME RUN BACKWARD OR FORWARD!**—A



MEET THE AUTHORS

GAVIN FROST, B.Sc., Ph.D., D.D., is Archbishop of the Church of Wicca, New Bern, North Carolina with national headquarters in Salem, Missouri; branches in several states and worldwide membership. He is Marshal of the Gold Star of England, with the right to wear the Saffron Robe and one of the very few Witches in the Western Hemisphere privileged to wear the authentic mark of initiation on his wrist. Although descended from a long line of mystics and scholars, and formerly a Vice-President and Director of International Operations for major aerospace companies, he prefers to be thought of as a humble teacher.

Mrs. YVONNE FROST, A.A., D.D., with her husband Gavin Frost, devotes her time to giving private instruction and publishing *Survival*, the newsletter of the Church of Wicca, of which she is a Bishop.

Articles by or about Gavin and Yvonne Frost have appeared in such national publications as *Midnight* and the *National Enquirer*.

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• **THE WITCH'S MONEY MAGNET!**—You'll see how to magnetize a dollar bill so that it multiplies! All you need to make your own Witch's Money Magnet is a dollar bill, a green candle, and the words on page 38. Once you do this, your dollar will double and keep doubling! You'll enjoy glittering luxuries, and start living like a millionaire, as Witches do!

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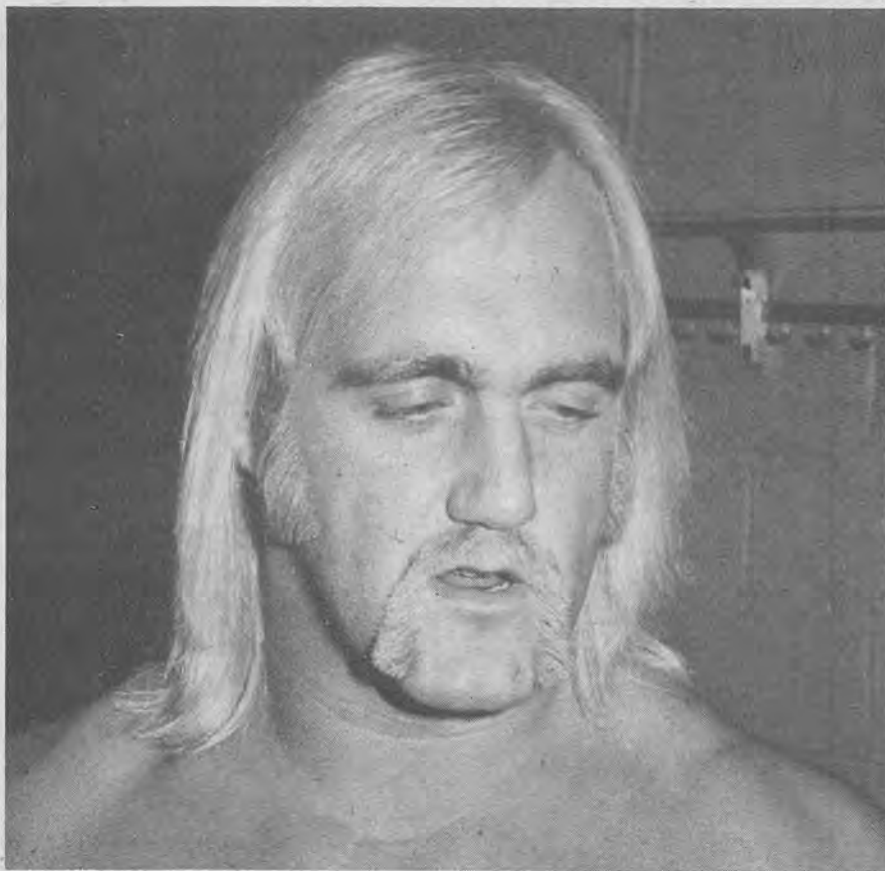
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INSIDE WRESTLING'S Gary Morgenstein and Matt Brock went on the road to interview Hulk Hogan (above) and his manager, Fred Blassie. After arriving late, Matt used a credit card to pick the lock of their hotel door and received a not-so-warm greeting when met inside by Hogan and Blassie. Needless to say, Brock got the story he was looking for.

ME AND MATT BROCK on assignment together. Going on the road with the man who taught me all I know about wrestling journalism. I thought we'd scoop the world. Instead, we begin the assignment in a ratty diner waiting for Brock to focus his bleary, bloodshot eyes.

"Thank God for coffee," Matt said, wincing as he sipped the fifth cup. I waited, picking at my cold toast. We'd been there over an hour.

"Appointment's for two o'clock, Matt."

"Yeah?"

"Shouldn't we be near that time?" I looked at my watch. One fifty-five. Our meeting was at least 20 minutes away. I was irritated. Besides, I wasn't used to breakfast at one in the afternoon. Obviously, Brock was accustomed to such bizarre hours. I don't think he's seen 8 am since his Navy days.

We were scheduled to interview

Fred Blassie and Hulk Hogan. I was compulsively punctual, almost neurotically so. Matt was, well, Matt was Matt.

"Son, don't worry."

"I like to be on time."

"Why?"

"Well, I don't know, makes me . . ."

"Keep worrying and you'll have no stomach left. Listen, son, let 'em wait, let 'em wonder, keep 'em off guard. I've been around a while."

Much as I loved and admired Matt, I didn't want to hear stories. Not now. Not with the sun still out.

Another 20 minutes, a cup of coffee, cheese danish and a loud belch. Grabbed a cab crosstown, strutted through a luxuriant lobby, up to the fourth floor. Four-oh-six. Matt gestured for quiet. He leaned against the door, listened, grunted and took out a credit card.

"Shouldn't we knock?" I

(Continued on page 50)

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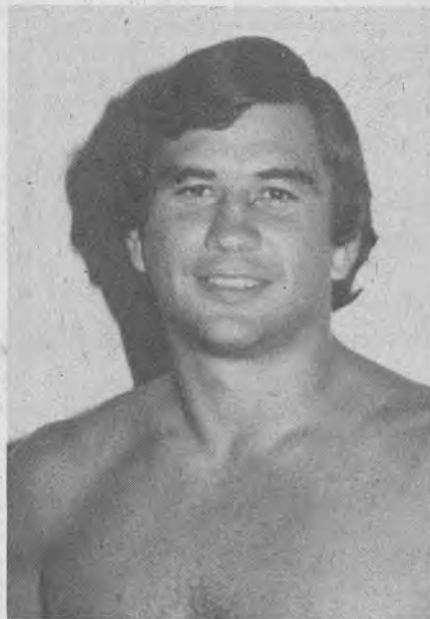
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15 DAY MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE

NAMES MAKI

JERRY BRISCO says he wants to wrestle Mike Graham for the International Junior Heavy-weight championship—even if it means losing some fans in the process. “There are a lot of fans who are hot at me for challenging Mike,” Jerry explained in an exclusive **INSIDE WRESTLING** interview. “I love my fans very much and do not want to lose one of them, but if they don’t understand and leave my side, I’m sorry.



JERRY BRISCO

I want that title.”

TOMMY RICH seems to be recovering well from the leg injury he sustained when he was sneak attacked by NWA champion **HARLEY RACE** moments after Tommy won the Georgia Television title from **AUSTIN IDOL**. Race knocked Tommy senseless and then had Idol put the figure four leglock on Tommy, seriously damaging his leg. Race allegedly paid Austin \$5,000 to put Tommy out of commission. He succeeded—but it will only be for a



TOMMY RICH

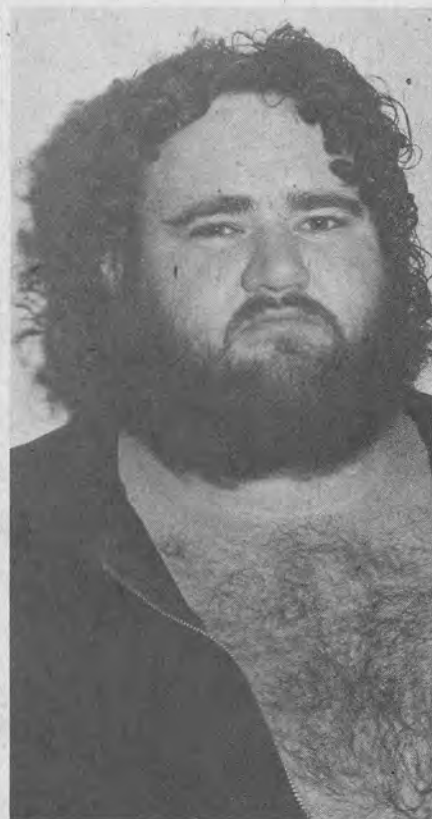
short time. I’d hate to be in Race and Idol’s shoes once Tommy gets his mitts on them! By the way, Race has now put another bounty on the head of a Georgia wrestler—**MR. WRESTLING II**. The price is 10 grand for any wrestler who can cripple the great masked man and get him off Harley’s path. Wrestling II is the current NWA number one challenger.



PROFESSOR TANAKA

BRUNO SAMMARTINO went berserk in his Philadelphia match against Larry Zbyszko and was disqualified. “I’ll destroy that monster I created,” the two time WWF champion vows . . . In Nashville, Tennessee **GYPSY JOE** and **BOBBY EATON** were both disqualified after they battled so furiously even the police could not stop them! . . . **RAY STEVENS** and **GREG VALENTINE** swear they will be wearing the NWA tag team belts by the time you are reading this.

SWEET BROWN SUGAR has surfaced in Texas and he is looking for a match against **PROFESSOR TANAKA** . . . In the AWA, **JERRY BLACKWELL** demands that he be billed as “Crusher” Blackwell. The promoters refuse to do this until he meets and defeats



JERRY BLACKWELL

N' NEWS

Bill Apter
reporting...



PAUL JONES

THE CRUSHER, the man who has owned that name in the AWA for many years. Says Crusher, "If that tub 'a lard can defeat me, he can have my Crusher moniker!"

Who is the mysterious masked MR. FLORIDA who is currently grappling in the "Sunshine State?" . . . PAUL JONES claims he was the man who ran BARON VON RASCHKE from the Mid-Atlantic region . . . LARS ANDERSON is teaming with brother OLE as they try to win the Georgia tag team belts from IVAN KOLOFF and ALEXIS SMIRNOFF . . . WWF champion BOB BACKLUND calls DICK MURDOCH one of the best challengers he has had outside the WWF territory. Bob wrestled Murdoch on a recent card in St. Louis, Missouri . . . With the illegal

assistance of his manager GENE ANDERSON, JIMMY SNUKA continues to rule the United States championship.

TONY GAREA is still trying to get a solid win over DEWEY ROBERTSON . . . NIKOLAI VOLKOFF has signed a contract to have SIR OLIVER HUMPERDINK manage his career, while BUGSY McGRAW has split from the Humperdink camp and has become a fan favorite in Florida! Bugsy has been teaming with DUSTY RHODES and MANNY FERNANDEZ, and the fans love it!



BUGSY McGRAW

In a beautiful scientific match that ended in a draw, PAUL ORNDORFF took on TED DiBIASE in Shreveport, Louisiana. Both agreed they would like nothing better than to grapple in scientific bouts more often . . . BULLDOG DON KENT says that CHIEF JAY STRONGBOW

is very overrated. "He is mere putty in my hands," Kent said.

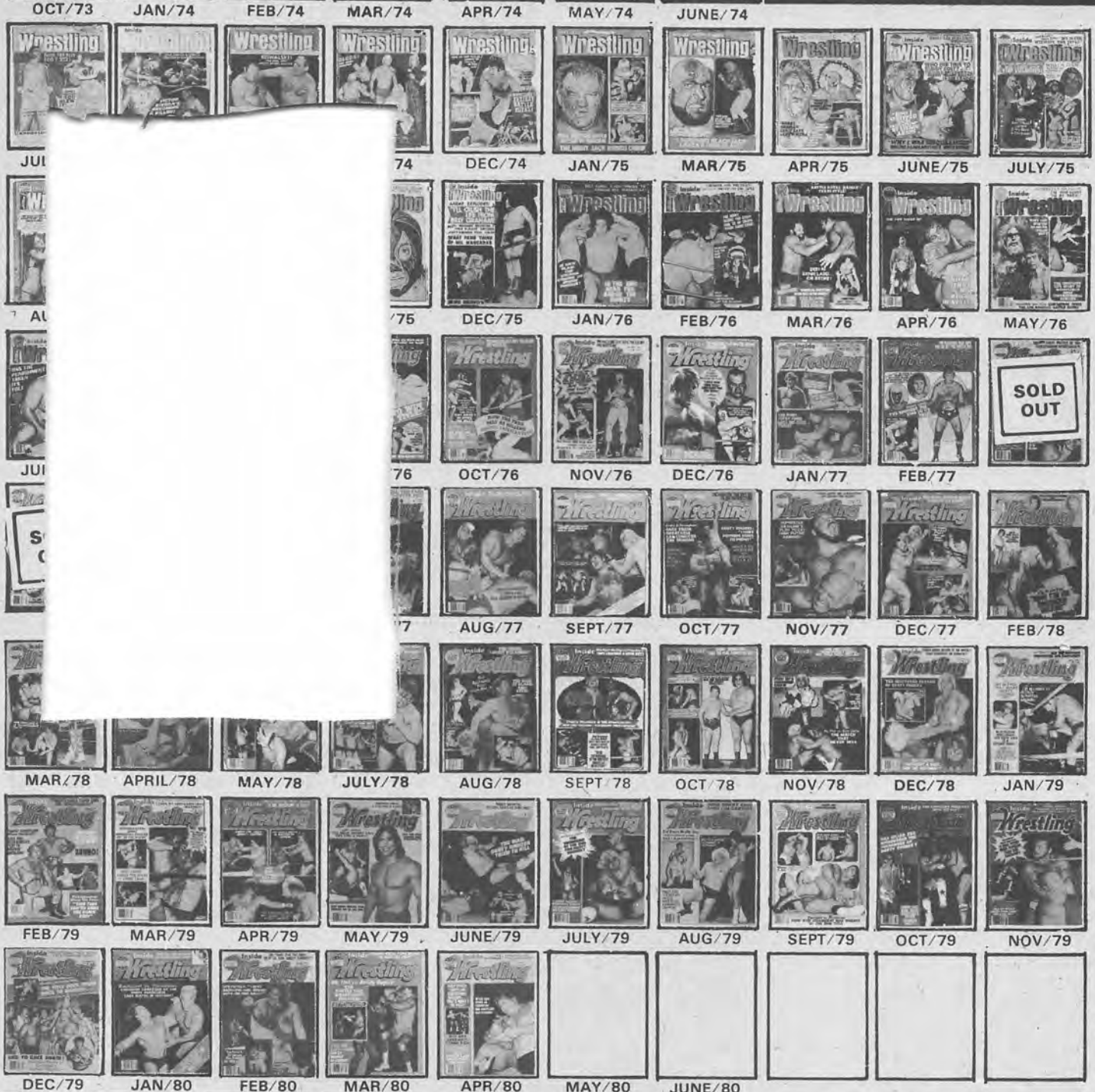
THE KIWIS have invaded the Pacific Northwest and plan to squash every top team in the area . . . THE GREAT MEPHISTO now manages both ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER and a new tag team by the name of THE MANCHURIANS.

EDOUARD CARPENTIER is wrestling in Montreal and he looks just great. Carpentier has never let himself get out of condition and he feels he is still good enough to wrestle for—and win—one of the major world titles! . . . GINO HERNANDEZ says he is a natural blond (even though he had dark brown hair since his pro debut). "I dyed it brown," he insists. "I'm a real blond." He also insists on being called "Gorgeous Gino." Open the windows gang!

That's all for now. See you next time. □



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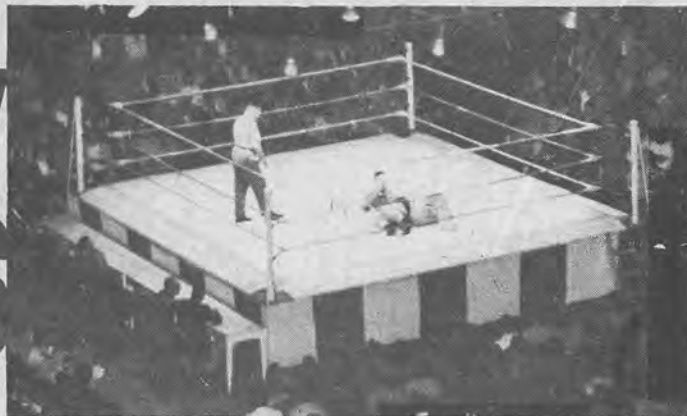
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FAN OF THE SAMOANS

A few months ago, Captain Lou Albano brought the best tag team in quite some time into the WWF. I'm talking about The Samoans, Afa and Sika. I feel these two will defeat Ivan Putski and Tito Santana for the WWF tag team championship.

I'm surprised they haven't won the belts yet, but mark my words, the rough twosome will take them away soon.

MICHAEL MONTEIRO
New Bedford, MA



While Michael Monteiro praises the Samoans, William Platz criticizes **INSIDE WRESTLING** for rating the tag team above the champions, Ivan Putski and Tito Santana.

Several times, Harley Race tried to interfere. Each time Rich avoided the attempted interferences.

After Rich defeated Idol for the title, a confrontation erupted between Race and the new champion. While this happened, Idol jumped Rich from behind and applied the figure-four leglock while Race kept jumping on Rich's leg. As a result, Rich was seriously injured and unable to wrestle Race the following night for the NWA title. Race admitted *after* the incident he'd offered money to other wrestlers to eliminate Rich as a challenger for the title.

The NWA should take some type of disciplinary action

against Race and Idol. Incidents like this are destroying the sport of wrestling.

CAROLYN ANN DUKES
Marietta, GA

HE LIKES LARRY

Well, it has happened once again. Another quote-unquote "good guy" has turned on a trusted friend and his fans. Joining the ranks of fine athletes like Victor Rivera, Chief Peter Maivia, and Spiros Arion is another turncoat: Larry Zbyszko.

I always knew Larry had brains, but even I didn't know how much—until he clobbered that coward Bruno Sammartino with a chair.

Finally we see Zbyszko's fine intelligence. It takes a smart man with great insight to see the light and turn bad. It's a good thing to see one-time do-gooders turn on those below-par good guy fans. I commend Larry Zbyszko.

JACK KELLY
Provincetown, MA

SOME AUDACITY

While reading the April issue, I looked at the official ratings and saw you had the audacity to say The Samoans were the WWF tag team champions. They did not beat Ivan Putski and Tito Santana for the championship. I would like you to correct this mistake in your next issue.

WILLIAM PLATZ
Rosedale, NY

(Editor's Note: The champions were dropped down in the ratings because of a lack of title defenses.)

NATIONAL DISGRACE?

On February 23, 1980, an incident occurred on Georgia Championship Wrestling that should be brought to the attention of wrestling fans and officials nationwide. Tommy Rich was wrestling Austin Idol for the TV championship.

RESPECTS RACE

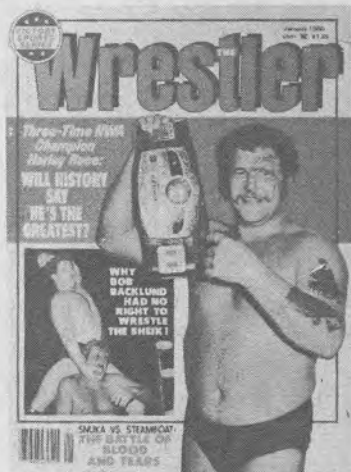
I finished reading "Bodyslams and Pinfalls" in the March issue of **INSIDE WRESTLING**. I do not think very highly of Dan Shocket, but I must admit the article on Harley Race is the best I've seen in years.

Everything written is the absolute truth. Why is Harley

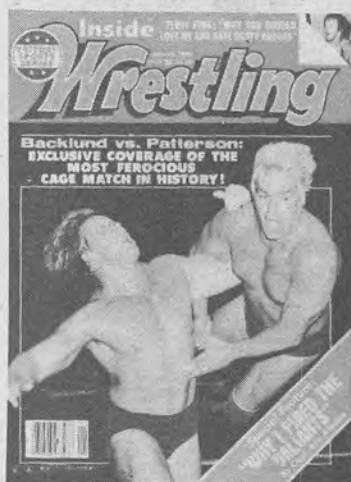
(Continued on page 52)

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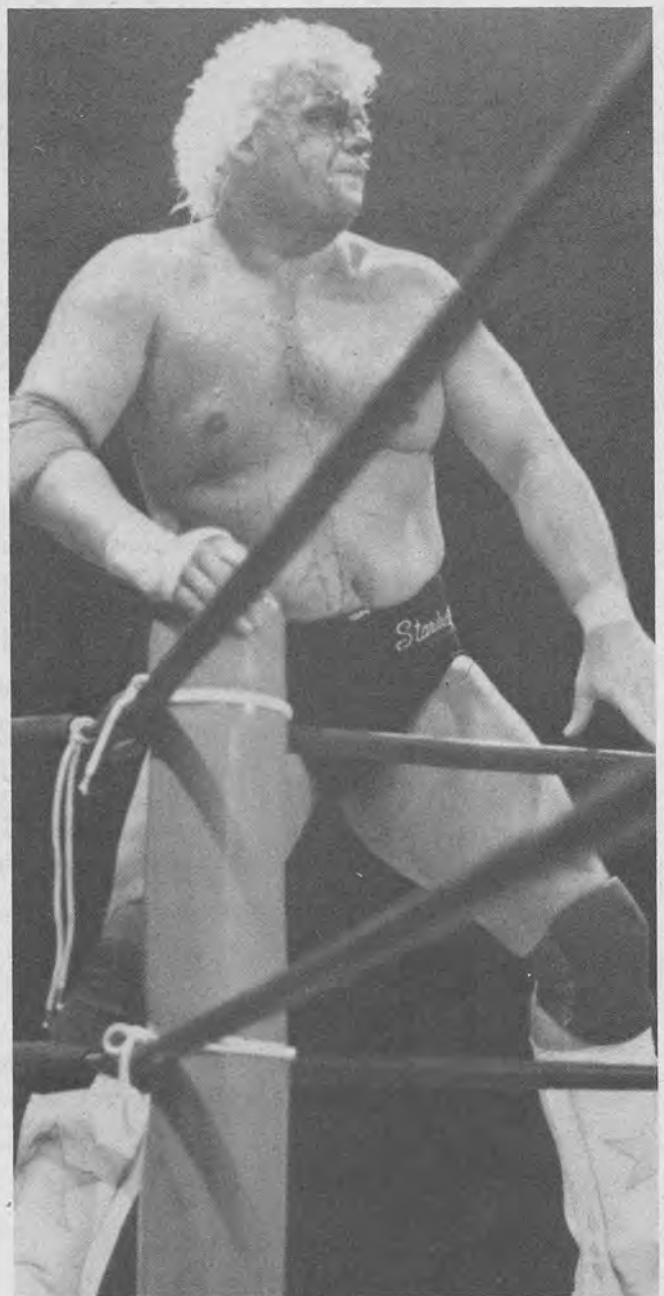
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Matt Brock's **PLAIN SPEAKING**

TAMPA, FLA.: Me and Dusty, smoke, spilled beer, peanuts, country music oozing some unimaginable pain out of a squat jukebox at the rear of the bar. Me and Dusty Rhodes. Neither had spoken for half an hour. I respect a man's silence as an extension of privacy. I've known Dusty for a long time, shared the ups and downs, pains and joy. Tonight was ecstasy. Yet Rhodes didn't jump for joy. Instead, he sat pensively, handsome face convolving in thought. I understood. Rhodes had gone through hell. He's suffered inner doubts. Rhodes wondered if he were slipping, if he'd ever win a title again. He was wrong. So were a lot of people. I confess to being part of that skeptical mob. I told Dusty that. He grinned, shook his head, and ordered another round. I waited. I would've waited until closing time for Rhodes to get the anguish off his chest. Another plate of pretzels, another sad song, another round, more cigar smoke. Rhodes would say few words. Much of his thoughts were emotionally inarticulate. Couldn't communicate them. I understood. A nervous cough, sip, crackle and out popped Rhodes. The Dream said beating Leroy Brown vindicated his entire career. While the Southern heavyweight championship wasn't the NWA belt, it acted as a springboard, renewed his self-confidence and energy. Champion Dusty Rhodes rose, grinned, and dropped a 20 on the table. This night, everything was on him.



DUSTY RHODES

CHARLOTTE, N.C.: Greg Valentine. Turn the name over in your mouth and feel the bile building. Imagine you're Ric Flair. You see a guy who was once your friend. This dude threatens to put your ear on your navel, your foot in your mouth, and other assorted physical floral arrangements. You want to smash him into the ground. Yet you feel a twinge of remorse, of

Harder than nails, veteran wrestling reporter Matt Brock has logged more miles covering wrestling than any other journalist. Every month Matt will travel to the sport's hotbeds, reporting everything he sees without fear or favor



ANDRE THE GIANT

regret, wonder why you should be the victim, wonder if you can ever impart any sense into that sneering face. You know you must destroy him, for the very good of wrestling, indeed, for your own survival. You have no alternative. But the seeds of friendship never really die. Always, they lie dormant, waiting for fertilization. You regret the seeds must be buried beneath one of your muscular bodies. You don't want it to be yours.

NEW YORK, N.Y.: Lou Albano swore on everything he holds dear (his wallet and bankbook), that Andre the Giant will sign a contract and form a formidable three man tag team with The Samoans. Why Andre would contemplate such a move had to be answered. Albano said Andre wanted to be champion, respected both him and The Samoans, as people and wrestlers, and asked him, Albano, to join forces. I decided to confront Andre with the shocking story. Except I couldn't find the Giant. I



BOB BACKLUND

patrolled all his favorite joints. Pepe Gomez's Mexican Hat. Hessian Harry's Nautical Nosh. Sam's Snack 'N Bun. No Andre. No one had seen him for days. I grew concerned. Andre the Giant doesn't lose himself in a crowd. While shaking down the story and increasing my expense account, I bumped into one of Andre's friends. He offered to buy me a drink. Low-cal soda, natch. Elliot told me Andre had been very despondent lately and he wouldn't dismiss that story. I left puzzled. And worried. Andre and The Samoans under the guidance of Captain Lou Albano could rule wrestling.

ST. LOUIS, MO.: What's Bob Backlund up to? Supposedly traveling to St. Louis for R and R, Backlund books himself against every wrestler he can find. I lunched with old pal Sam Muchnik, a promoter for over 35 years. Sam suspects Backlund has too much to prove and simply can't avoid a match. Sounds good to me. □

COLLECTOR'S CORNER

WRESTLING MAGAZINE

It was simply titled "WRESTLING." And it was the first serious attempt to establish a magazine devoted entirely to professional wrestling which had a regular frequency and a world-wide distribution. The five issues of **WRESTLING** magazine are perhaps the most sought-after collector's back issues now made available to you.

MARCH 1951—Human Side, Wrestling Whirl, How to Wrestle, New Faces, Popularity Ratings, Strangler Lewis' Life, Sumo Wrestling, Yukon Eric's Life, Wrestler vs. Boxer, Strong Arms, June Byers' Life, George Hackenschmidt vs. Frank Gotch **\$30**

BOXING & WRESTLING

After five issues, **WRESTLING** magazine changed its name to **BOXING & WRESTLING**. Continuing its high standard in wrestling, the addition of boxing stories made it one of the most popular sports magazines of the '50s. Some of the back issues listed in this ad can be obtained now by the general public for the first time in more than 25 years. As you would expect, supplies are very, very limited.



NOV. 1951 Boxing—John L. Sullivan, TV Favorites, Lew Jenkins, News of the Month, Joe Louis Kayoes Lee Savold, How's Business, Harry Greb, Jimmy Carter Wins Lightweight Crown, Can Robinson Beat Maxim, Historic Photos, Jack Dempsey's Record, Results of the Month, Cartoon.

Wrestling—Superman Lou Thesz, Girl Star Nell Stewart, Ratings, The Garibaldi Clan, Bert Assirati, Greatest Matches, Gus Sonnenberg Beats Strangler Lewis **\$25**

DECEMBER 1951 Boxing—Maxim Beats Sailor Murphy, Gavilan Beats Billy Graham, Jim Corbett, Knockout Artists, Best Prospects, New Champion Randy Turpin, Upsets, Jersey Joe Walcott, Ratings, Marciano Challenges Walcott, Sandy Saddler (Life Story), Tex Rickard, Famous Fights of the Past, Fights of the Month

Wrestling—Verne Gagne, Ratings, TV Announcer Dennis James, Sandor Szabo, Matches of the Month, Pet Peeve, Sammy Berg, Mae Weston **\$25**

JANUARY 1952 Boxing—Pep vs. Saddler, Gans vs. Kid Lavigne, Robinson vs. Turpin, Mickey Walker, Tricksters, Tony Janiro, Barney Ross's Record, Tex Rickard, Roland LaStarza, Leonard vs. Kilbane, Rocky Marciano, Ratings, Knockouts

Wrestling—Yvon Robert, Wrestling Whirl, Sky Hi Lee, Matches of the Month, Pacific Coast Championship, George Hackenschmidt, Indian Wrestlers, Ruffy Silverstein, Ratings, Londres vs. Shikat **\$25**

FEBRUARY 1952 Boxing—Fights of the Month, Trouble with Boxing, Young Prospects, Tony Canzoneri, Bob Fitzsimmons, Rocky Graziano, Unusual Incidents, Predictions for 1952, Willie Lewis vs. Sailor Burke, Ratings (Marciano Fighter of Month), Tex Rickard Story

Wrestling—Dirty Duseks, Cora Combs, Wrestling Whirl, Matches of the Month, The Original Terrible Turk, How to Improve Wrestling, Ratings **\$25**

MARCH-APRIL 1952 Boxing—Fights of the Month, Million Dollar Gates, Gene Tunney's Record, Heavyweights of 1952, Trouble with Boxing, Jim Jeffries, Henry Armstrong, Dumb Dan Morgan, Rocky Marciano, Jersey Joe Walcott, Tex Rickard Story, Ezzard Charles, Jimmy Carter vs. Art Aragon

Wrestling—Fred Von Schacht, Frank Gotch Record, Midgets, Wrestling Whirl, Millie Stafford, Matches of the Month, Max Baer in Wrestling, Ratings, Promoter Billy Thom of Indianapolis, Good Old Days **\$25**

MAY 1952 Boxing—Fights of the Month, Greatest Heavyweights, Johnny Dundee, Harry Matthews, Ratings, Benny Leonard's Record, Tex Rickard Story, Kid Gavilan, Battling Nelson vs. Ad Wolgast Classic, Tommy Burns, New N.Y. Boxing Commissioner Bob Christenberry, Bobby Dykes

Wrestling—Whipper Watson, Old Timers, Wrestling Whirl, Verne Gagne, Great Gama, Matches of the Month, Primo Carnera, Ratings, Strangler Lewis, Girl Wrestling in Germany **\$25**

JUNE 1952 Boxing—Fights of the Month, Gil Turner, Max Schmeling, Jack Johnson, Ratings, Stillman's Gym, Chico Vejar, Flyweights and Bantamweights, Tex Rickard Story, Paddy DeMarco, Max Baer's Record

Wrestling—Lord Carlton, Ratings, Mars Bennett, Human Sides, Tony Lanza, Wrestling Whirl, Good Old Days, Whipper Watson, Matches of the Month, San Francisco Promoter Joe Malcewicz **\$25**

JULY 1952 Boxing—Fights of the Month, Joe Baksi, Jess Willard, Manager Al Weill, Abe Attell, Danny Nardico, Fighters Are Human, Tex Rickard Story, Famous Filipinos, Norman Hayes, Ratings

Wrestling—Lord Blears, My Toughest Bouts by Lou Thesz, Wrestling Whirl, Matches of the Month, Texas Rasslin', Ratings, Ivan Kamiroff, It Began With Milo, Good Old Days **\$25**

AUGUST 1952 Boxing—Highlights, Paddy Young, Sammy Mandell, Trainer Doc Bagler, Jack Dempsey, Keeny Teran and Gil Cadilli, Tex Rickard Story, Lew Tendler, TV From Miami, From Knockdown to Victory, Ratings

Wrestling—Dirty Dick Raines, Good Old Days, Whipper Watson, How Girl Wrestlers Keep Fit, Ratings, Adrian Baillargeon, Wrestling Whirl, Matches of the Month, Mighty Atlas **\$25**

SEPTEMBER 1952 Boxing—Highlights, Fighting Italians, George Araujo, Pancho Villa, Trainer Charlie Goldman, Willie Troy, Ratings, Boxing Confidential, Gene Tunney, Jackie Fields

Wrestling—Bobby Managoff, Lou Thesz's Record, Ratings, Matches of the Month, Tim Geohagen, William Muldoon, Wrestling Whirl **\$25**

OCTOBER 1952 Boxing—Highlights (Walcott vs. Charles; Carter loses to Salas, etc.), Lauro Salas, Stanley Ketchel, Irish Champions, Chuck Davey, Max Schmeling, Ratings, Joe Miceli, Strange Experiences, Willie Pep tells about his loss to Sandy Saddler, Boxing Medicine Man Dr. Nardiello

Wrestling—Riki Dozan, Their Hardest Battles, Matches of the Month, Ray Gunkel, Tough Turks, Wrestling Whirl, Ratings, Record of Verne Gagne **\$25**

DECEMBER 1952 Boxing—Rocky Marciano, Highlights: Rex Layne Beats Ezzard Charles, etc., Fighting French, Johnny Bratton, Jackie 'Kid' Berg, Boxing Humor, Tommy Garr, Comparing old and new greats, Dave Davey, Primo Carnera, Ratings, Dressing Room Drama, Dramatic Incidents

Wrestling—Killer Kowalski, Record of Gene Stanlee, Jack

Flanagan, Joe Louis Story, Promoter Sam Silverman, Cleveland Williams, Boxing Jinxes, Jack Delaney, Ratings, What Makes a Champion, Johnny Risko

Wrestling—The Buddy Rogers Story, Fred Atkins, Wrestler vs. Boxer, Matches of the Month, Fan Clubs, Mule Kick Marlin, Wrestling Whirl, Ratings, Matt Kosternich, Rick Starr, Lou Thesz vs. Gene Stanlee **\$30**

APRIL 1953 Boxing—Fighting Talk, Fights in Review (Billy Graham vs. Joey Giardello; Tiger Jones vs. Johnny Bratton), Pat McMurtry, Billy Miske, Ezzard Charles, Undeclared Johnny Saxton, Fidel LaBarba, Luis Firpo, Archie Moore Wins Title at Age 36, Jimmy McLarnin, Jack Dillon

Wrestling—Marvin Mercer, Matches of the Month, Record of Yukon Eric, Killer Kowalski vs. Yukon Eric, Man Mountain Dean, Ratings, Wrestling Whirl, Fan Clubs, Promoter Al Mayer, Trading Holds **\$30**

MAY 1953 Boxing—Fighting Talk, Fights in Review (Danny Nardico upsets Jake LaMotta, Rocky Castellani beats Tiger Jones), Kid Gavilan kayoes Chuck Davey to retain crown, Roland LaStarza tops Rex Layne, The Dundee Brothers, Baltimore's Great Fighters, Saga of John Morrissey, Tommy Loughran, Ratings, Middleweight Muddle, Charlie White

Wrestling—Fred Curry, Elvira Shodgrass, Matches of the Month, Great Togo, Ruffy Silverstein, Trading Holds, Record of Buddy Rogers, Ratings, Wrestling Whirl, Fan Clubs **\$30**

OCTOBER 1953 Boxing—Fighting Talk, Fights of the Month, Dan Baccaroni, Promoter Lew Raymond, Arthur Persley, Light Heavyweight History, Best Heavyweight Bets, Jackie 'Kid' Berg upsets Tony Canzoneri, Floyd Patterson, Charlie 'Phil' Rosenberg, Your Boxing I.Q., Ratings

Wrestling—Leo Nomellini, Johnny Barend, Ratings, Record of Sonny Myers, Violet Viann, Matches of the Month, Frank Gotch, Wrestling Whirl, Fan Clubs, Trading Holds **\$30**

DECEMBER 1953 Boxing—Fighting Talk, Marciano kayoes Roland LaStarza (title), Fights of the Month, Referee's Problem, Tony Galento and Manager Joe Jacobs, Philadelphia History, Five Best Lightweight Bets, Middleweight History, Battling Siki, Primo Carnera Kills Ernie Schaaf, Jimmy Slattery, Ratings

Wrestling—Lucky Simonovich, Ratings, Mighty Atlas, Reggie Lisowski, Yvon Robert, Matesches of the Month, Fan Clubs, Wrestling Whirl **\$30**

Some of the back issues in this ad have not been offered for sale for more than 25 years. All of these extremely rare magazines are from the personal collection of Stanley Weston, owner of the world's largest collection of wrestling memorabilia. This is indeed a once in a lifetime opportunity for the true collector to finally own these highly treasured but until now elusive editions. Obviously, the supplies of these issues are very limited, and they will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis. It is for that reason we urge you to list substitute choices when you order. This will avoid time wasted writing back and forth should a particular issue be sold out. The prices quoted are based on the rarity of the issue and the amount of available copies. For fastest service, payment should be made by money order or certified check. While cash will be accepted, we cannot assume responsibility when it is sent through the mails. All sales are final and no exchanges will be made.

O'Reilly, Ratings, June Byers, Wrestling Whirl, Matches of the Month, Tough Way To Make A Living, Hollywood Promoter Hugh Nichols **\$30**

JANUARY 1953 Boxing—Marciano wins title from Walcott, Highlights of the Month, The Negro in Boxing, Tommy Collins, Max Baer Story, Ted 'Kid' Lewis, Johnny Gonsalves, Managers' Mistakes, Ratings, Kid Herman, Sparring Partners, Gerald Dryer, Human Punching Bags

Wrestling—Fred Atkins, Rocca's Record, Disgusted Fans, Ratings, Lou Thesz, Wrestling Whirl, Ronnie Etchinson, Matches of the Month, Al "Dragon" Tucker **\$40**

MARCH 1953 Boxing—Fighting Talk, Highlights (Ezzard Charles Beats Cesar Brion; Johnny Bratton over Joe Miceli), New Jersey Champions in Every Division, Glen

FEBRUARY 1954 Boxing—Fighting Talk, Fights of the Month, Nino Valdez, Mickey Walker, Hein Ten Hoff, Featherweight History, Boxing Quiz, Luther McCarty, Joe Louis vs. Bob Pastor, Jack Johnson vs. Tommy Burns, Stanley Ketchel, Harry Greb, Ratings

Ratings—Bill Melby; Primo Carnera, Matches of the Month, Raphael Halpern—The Wrestling Rabbi, Ratings, Len Hughes, Fan Clubs, Leo Nomellini, Wrestling Whirl, Remember When **\$35**

MARCH 1954 Boxing—Fighting Talk, Fights of the Month, 'Red Top' Davis, Bantamweight History, Commissioner Frank Wiener, Earl Wals, Ratings, Power of Punch, Bat Battalino vs. Kid Chocolate, Amateurs, Your Boxing I.Q., Ace Hudkins

Wrestling—Dennis Clary, Sandor Kovacs, Ratings, Dory

Funk Sr., Matches of Month, Gossip, Wrestling Whirl, Hans Schmidt, Trading Holds, Record of Lord Blears \$35

MAY 1954 Boxing—Fighting Talk, Former Champions Speak Out, Fights of Month, Rocky Castillo, Joey Giambra, Stanley Ketchel, Tommy Burns, Billy Peacock, Henry Armstrong Wins Title From Petey Sarron, Training, Boxing Quiz, Jimmy Wilde, Ratings

Wrestling—Don Leo Jonathan, Eric Pederson, Trading Holds, Top Money Makers, Tarzan White, Matches of Month, Duke Keomaka, Fan Clubs, Remember When \$35

JULY 1954 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Fighting Talk, Fights of Month, French Invasion, Archie Moore Can Beat Marciano, Bat Masterson, Gil Turner, Harlem Tommy Murphy, Holly Mims, Vince Dundee vs. Len Harvey, Vince Martinez, Your Boxing I.Q., Ratings, Bud Taylor

Wrestling—Tor Yamato, The Larsen Brothers, New Jersey Stars, Ida Mae Martinez, Matches of Month, Frank Jaras, Gossip, Fan Clubs, Wrestling Whirl \$35

AUGUST 1954 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Fighting Talk, Marciano vs. Charles Fight, Fight of Month, Manager Al Weil, Britain's John Sullivan, Al Davis, 'Hurricane' Jackson, Ratings, Battling Nelson's Life, Vince Martinez, Benny Leonard vs. Jimmy McLarnin, Carmine Fiore, Joe Lynch, Quiz

Wrestling—Ray Eckert, Ratings, 'Treacherous' Phillips, June Byers, Matches of Month, Gypsy Joe, Gossip, Trading Holds \$35

OCTOBER 1954 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Fighting Talk, Fights of Month, Joey Giardello Says He'll Kayo Bobo Olson, Harry Greb's Life, Cisco Andrade, Weighing Ins, Tiberio Mitri Kayoes Randy Turpin, Jack Dempsey vs. Bill Brennan, Walter Cartier, TV Is Killing Boxing, Quiz, Ratings, Lew Tendler

Wrestling—Bobo Brazil, Gloria Barratini, Results of Month, Al Kashey, Wrestling Whirl, Rocky Columbo, Light Heavyweight Champs, Fan Clubs, Trading Holds \$35

NOVEMBER 1954 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, Can Marciano Be Beaten? Sam Langford's Life, Al Andrews, Managers Art Winch & Sam Pian, Billy Lauderale, Max Schmeling vs. Harry Thomas, Carmelo Costa, Quiz, Ratings, Promoter Norm Rothschild, Stanley Ketchel vs. Jack O'Brien, Maxie Rosenbloom

Wrestling—Nell Stewart, Baron Leone, Canadian Champs, Enrique Torres, Matches of Month, Art Neilson, Wrestling Whirl, Dick Raines-Abe Kashey Feud, Gossip \$55

DECEMBER 1954 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Matches of Month, Cisco Andrade, Ezzard Charles writes about Marciano, Bare Knuckle Fighters, Tony DeMarco, Jimmy Braddock, Maxie Rosenbloom's Life, Paul Andrews, Tony Galento vs. Lou Nova, Benny Leonard, Quiz, Dempsey vs. Fred Fulton, Quiz

Wrestling—Bob Orton, Matches of Month, Cowboy Carlson, Mars Bennett, California Champs, Al Costello, Wrestling Whirl, Gossip, Fan Clubs \$25

FEBRUARY 1955 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, Nino Valdez Says "I'll Beat Marciano," Billy Petrolle's Life, Carmen Basilio Challenges Johnny Saxton, Bare Knuckle Fighters, Lou Stillman, Jim Corbett vs. Joe Choynski, Jack Delany, Jack Johnson Compared to Modern Fighters, Why Black Fighters Are Tops, Quiz, Ratings, Jimmy McLarnin

Wrestling—Billy Varga, Ratings, Violet Viann, Verne Gagne, Speaks Out, Matches of Month, Sonny Myers, Wrestling Whirl, Gossip, How To Start A Fan Club \$25

MARCH 1955 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, Kid Gavilan, Cisco Andrade, Eugene Crique, Ratings, Writer Dan Parker, Best Heavyweight Of All, Charley Powell, Young Griffo, Kid McCoy vs. Tomy Sharkey, Willie Ritchie, Quiz, Pedro Montanez

Wrestling—Gorgeous George, Matches of Month, Jack Witzig, Ike Eakins, Texas Tough Guys, Little Black Dynamite, Wrestling Whirl, Fan Clubs \$25

APRIL 1955 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Archie Moore Blasts Marciano, Robert Cohen, Joe Choynski's Life, Strike By Managers' Guild, 'Boardwalk' Billy Smith, Ad Wolgast vs. Joe Rivers, Fake Fights, St. Nicks Arena, TV Fights of 1954, Paul Berlenbach, Quiz, Ratings \$25

MAY 1955 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, Jimmy Carter, Trainer Whitey Bimstein's Secrets, Pancho Villa's Life, Frankie Ryff, Ray Robinson's Comeback, Les Darcy, Charley Norkus, Max Baer Kayoes Max Schmeling, Bob Fitzsimmons, Quiz, Ratings, Barney Ross

Wrestling—Primo Carnera, Roy McClarity, Matches of Month, Southwest Champs, Great Scott, Killer Kowalski Strength Secrets, Wrestling Whirl, Fan Clubs, Gossip, Full Color Pin Up of Buddy Rogers \$20

JUNE 1955 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, Eduardo Lausne, Tony Canzoneri's Life, Tiger Jones and Bobby Jones, How Marciano is Managed, Lou Brouillard's Life, Bob Baker, Matchmaker Teddy Brenner, Ten Deadliest Punches, Tommy Ryan vs. Sandow, Ruby Goldstein, Ratings, Quiz

Wrestling—Yukon Eric, Pacific Coast Powerhouses, Billy Goetz, Wrestling Whirl, Manuel Cortez, Matches of Month, Bob Geigel, Fan Clubs, Full Color Pinup of Billy Varga \$25

JULY 1955 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Rocky Marciano Crushes Don Cockell, Fights of Month, Chico Vejar, Tony Canzoneri's Life (conclusion), Carmen Basilio describes his war with Tony DeMarco, Fight Nite At St. Nicks, Jimmy Soo, Fantasy Fight with Joe Walcott, Ludwig Lightburn, Benny Leonard vs. Ever Hammer, Philadelphia Jack O'Brien, Ratings, Quiz

Wrestling—'Tiger' Joe Marsh, Matches of Month, Timmy Geohagen, TV Stars, Yukon Eric Tells How To Build Muscles, Was Henri DeGlane a Nazi? Wrestling Whirl, Fan Clubs, Full Color Pinup of Frankie Talaber \$25

AUGUST 1955 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, Floyd Patterson, Tony DeMarco, Boxing's Mouthpiece, Mickey Walker, Joe Rowan, Fritz Zivic batters Henry Armstrong, Fighting Irish, Joey Lopes, Sam Langford vs. Stanley Ketchel, Quiz, Luis Firpo, Ratings

Wrestling—'Legs' Langewin, Yukon Eric, Matches of Month, Promoter Eddie Quinn, Most Dangerous Holds, Joe Cassius, Wrestling Whirl, Gossip, Full Color Pin Up Of Leo Nomellini \$25

SEPTEMBER 1955 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, Rocky Castellani, Promoter Jim Norris, Fight Afternoon, Rudy Garcia, Abe Attell, Billy Graham Quits, Terry McGovern vs. Pedler Palmer, Pat McMurtry, Al Singer, Willie Jackson, Ratings, Quiz

Wrestling—Leo Nomellini, Do Black Wrestlers Get Fair Shake? Matches of Month, Crazy Kalmikoffs, Hans Schnabel, Wrestling Whirl, Al & Tiny Mills, Gossip, Wrestling Stinks! Full Color Pin Up of Big Bill Miller \$25

OCTOBER 1955 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, The Real Marciano, Frankie Carbo, Carmen Basilio, John L. Sullivan vs. Charley Mitchell, Carmelo Costa, Jack Dempsey (Part 1), Paddy Young, Archie Moore, Joe Benjamin, Ratings, Quiz

Wrestling—Hans Herman, Matches of Month, Strangler Lewis, One World's Title! Sky Hi Lee, Wrestling Whirl, Kamikaze Kinji, Hans Schmidt, Full Color Pin Up of Lord Blears \$25

NOVEMBER 1955 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Marciano Kayoes Archie Moore, Fights of Month, Willie Pastrano, What Made Dempsey A Killer? 'Bud' Smith, Yama Bahama, Joe Gans vs. Rufe Turner, Strategy, Tony Puleo, Great Trainers, Ratings, Johnny Dundee, Johnny Kilbane, Quiz

Wrestling—Riki Dozan, Matches of Month, Don Arnold, Colorful Characters, Hindu Wrestlers, Chris Tolos, Malcolm Brenner, Full Color Pin Up of Pat O'Connor \$25

DECEMBER 1955 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, Vince Martinez, Commissioner Julie Helfand, Georges Carpentier's Life, Rey Layne, Matchmaker Teddy Brenner, Ten Greatest of All Time, 'Hurricane' Jackson, Your Boxing I.Q. Ratings, Jack Johnson Double Cross, Tommy Gibbons

Wrestling—Larry Moquin, Matches of Month, Red Berry Farmer Burns, Ratings, Paul Baillargeon, Wrestling Whirl, Lou Thesz, Gossip \$30

JANUARY 1956 Boxing—Eddie Borden Editorial, Critics Talk, Fights of Month, Joey Giambra upsets Bobo Olson, Joe Lynch, Ray Drake, Mystery of Joe Walcott Solved, Training Camps, Jimmy Slattery, Chris Christensen, Bare Knuckle Brawl-Tom Johnson vs. Isaac Perrins, Petey Sarron, Charley White, Ratings, Quiz

Wrestling—Why Women Wrestle, Wrestling Whirl, Bill Fletcher, Ivan Padubny, Bearded Wrestlers, Matches of Month, Art Michalek, Gossip, Fan Clubs \$25

WRESTLING REVUE

WRESTLING REVUE (1959-1964) is thought to be the finest series of wrestling magazines ever published. These beautiful editions (all edited and published by Stanley Weston) set a standard by which all of today's wrestling magazines are judged. The magnificent back issues in this ad, many of which contain spectacular full-color inserts, have been unavailable to the public for more than 10 years. Supplies of these collector's treasures are very limited.



Fall 1959

The first issue, edited and published by Stanley Weston, established a new style for wrestling magazines. This classic first issue, printed on heavy, coated paper, contains eight pages of full color pictures, plus front and back covers, also in dazzling full color.

Fifteen years ago, this extremely rare issue was being sold for \$50 per copy, the same price we are offering it to you now \$50

FALL 1960	\$35
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JUNE 1963	\$10
JUNE 1964	\$35
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THE CLASSIC 1960 TV WRESTLING ALBUM

The first and still the Classic Album of all time. All 68 pages printed on the finest, heavy, coated paper. The Full Page portraits, 58 in all, of the world's greatest wrestlers of that era, some of whom are still active today, are all neatly bordered, ready for framing. And that cover! Ah, probably the greatest portrait of a wrestler ever taken, in full color.

Buddy Rogers, champion at that time, is the subject. \$20

COLLECTOR'S CORNER

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SEND ME THE BACK ISSUES I'VE LISTED BELOW

Please write in magazine name and date
For Example: "BOXING & WRESTLING Jan./1952"

- | | |
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| 1 _____ | 4 _____ |
| 2 _____ | 5 _____ |
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In The Event Any Of The Above Magazines Are Sold Out, I Will Accept The Substitute Issues Listed Below

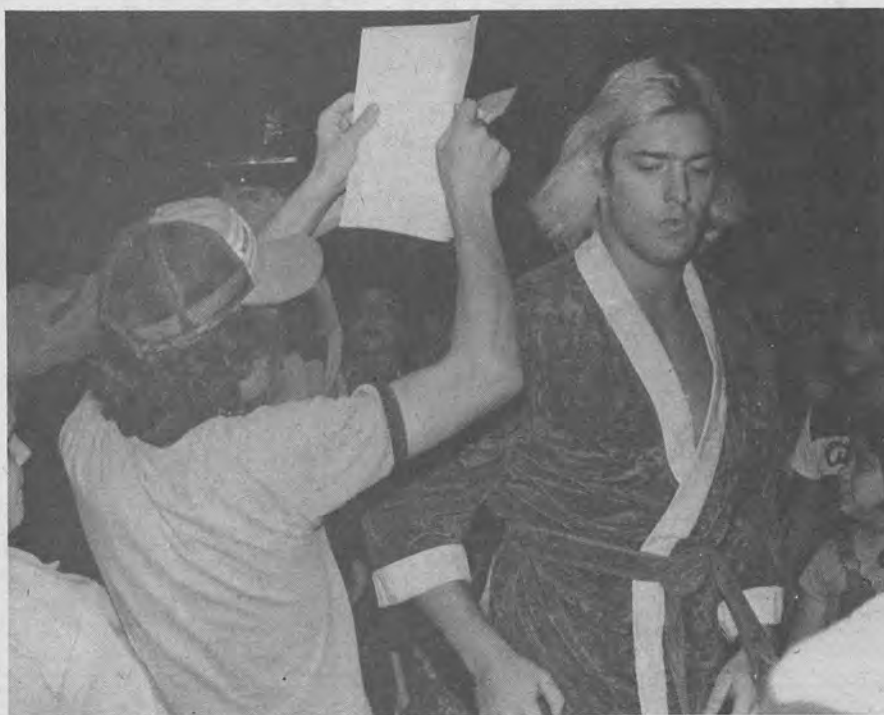
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TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Gino Hernandez's Claim: **"THE VON ERICH NAME HAS BEEN DISGRACED!"**



Fritz Von Erich, a rulebreaker in his early years, gives stern instruction to son Kevin as David listens (above). Gino Hernandez (below) calls Kevin, David, and Kerry a disgrace to the family name.



WHAT IS THE Von Erich legacy? Two vehement interpretations flail the Texas air and set the foundation for a fierce, perhaps tragic war.

"To be a Von Erich is to seek the highest pinnacle of hard work, dedication, and loyalty," said Kevin Von Erich.

"Winning like a man, fairly, without cheating, that's what being a Von Erich is all about," said David Von Erich.

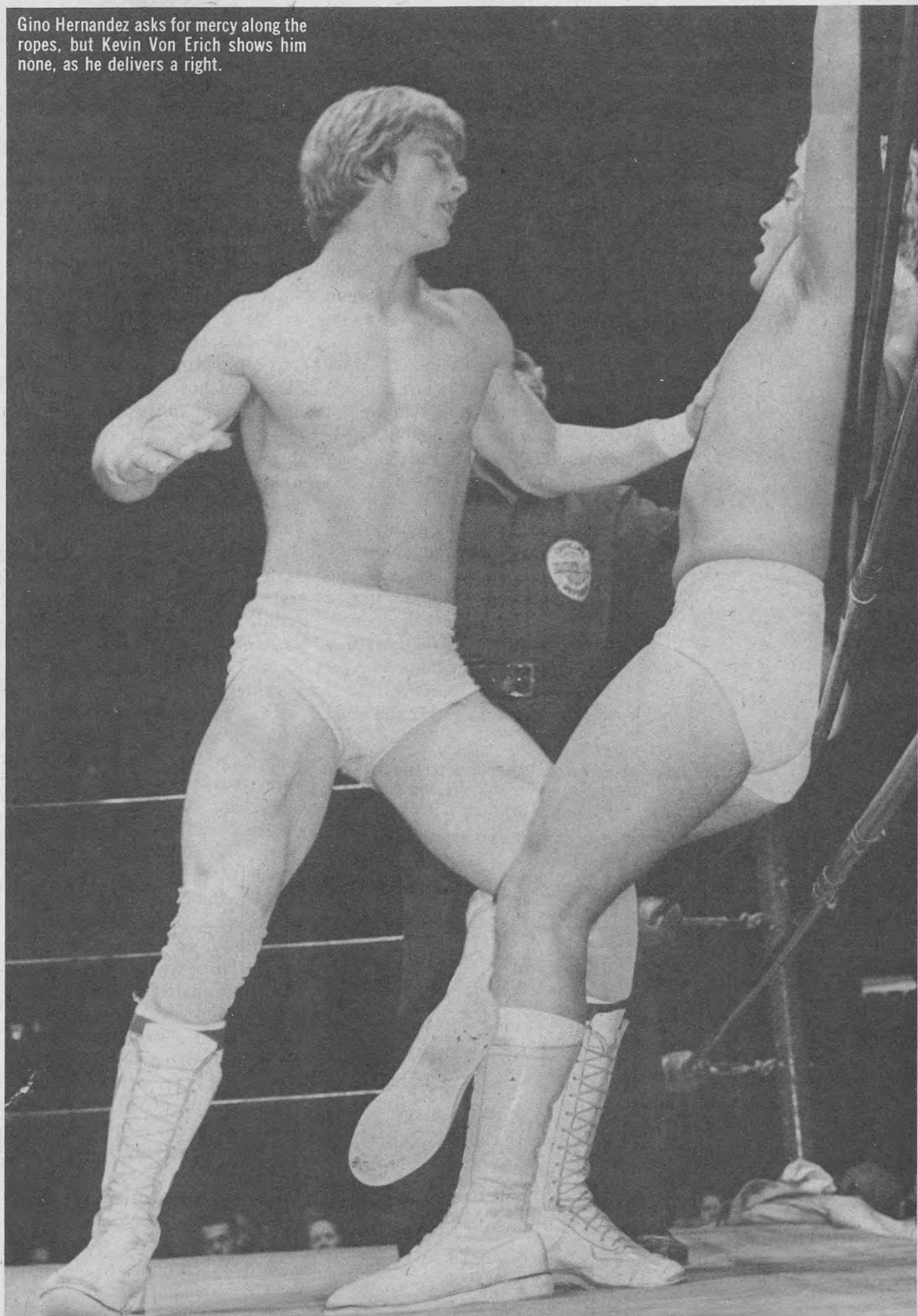
"The Von Erich name has been disgraced," shouts Gino Hernandez. "Those two-bit punks don't know the first thing about wrestling."

Gino Hernandez doesn't like Kevin and David and Kerry Von Erich. Especially Kevin. Though

Embittered jealousy fills Gino Hernandez with mindless hatred. Merely looking at one of the Von Erichs drives him mad with contempt. Now Hernandez issues his most shocking claim. Hernandez says the Von Erich boys disgrace their family legacy

PHOTOS BY JIM CALDWELL

Gino Hernandez asks for mercy along the ropes, but Kevin Von Erich shows him none, as he delivers a right.



Hernandez will deny it, he is jealous of the Von Erichs.

"They never worked for nothin' in their whole lives," snapped Gino. "Once, bein' a Von Erich meant winnin' and wrestlin' like a man, not some hunky-dunky pansy. Kevin Von Erich don't know the first thing about wrestlin'. It shows in his game and it'll show when I wipe the floor with his pretty face."

Hernandez had to work and



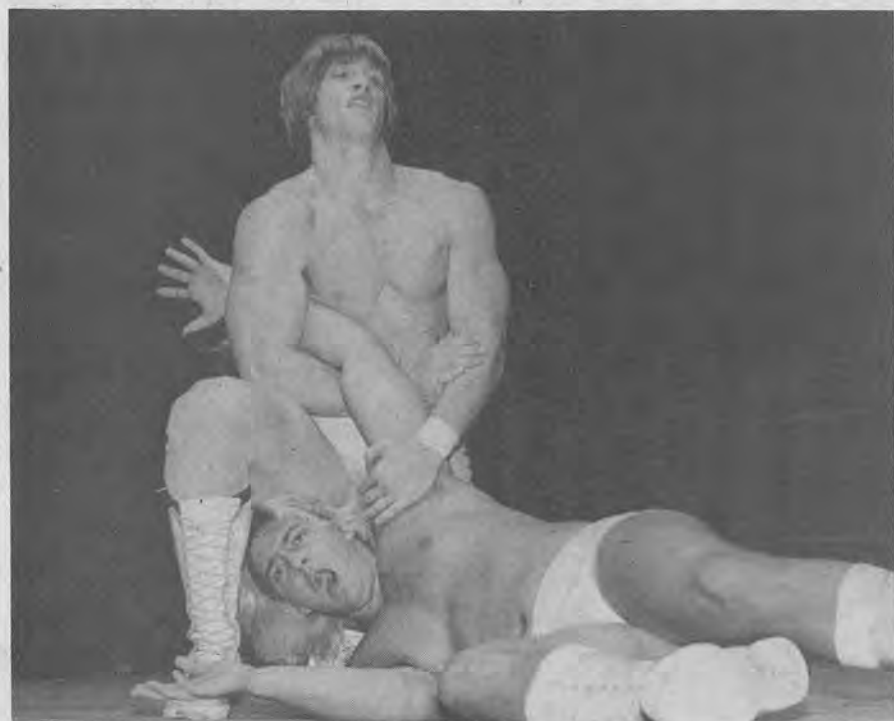
scrap his way to the top. No one ever gave him anything. Hernandez recalls a night he waited at the back entrance of an arena for his hero to emerge.

"It was freezin', man, I had a thin jacket 'cause I couldn't afford a warm one," recounted Hernandez. "And my hero comes out. His name is Fritz Von Erich. He got his kids with him, Kevin and David. I'm shiverin' and my hands are turnin' blue. I hold out this autograph book and ask him to sign his name.

"And that little punk, either Kevin or David, I can't tell 'em apart, says, no, no Daddy, don't give him an autograph. Fritz looked real mean at the punk and said if the boy wants to wait, he's shown himself to be a man and deserves a Von Erich autograph.

"I never forgot that. Now the punks spoil that. They don't sign autographs, they never do, they're too busy. Who the hell do they think they are? Who do they think pays their lousy stinkin' salary? They sure as hell don't earn their lousy money," Hernandez

Hernandez lets out a scream as Kevin twists his wrist (left) and applies an armbar (below).



continued.

"I know what it's like to struggle and fight for everything in life. That's the true meanin' of a Von Eric, makin' it on your own and appreciatin' the little guys, the ones who helped you back then. Not ignoring some poor little kid freezin' his butt off to get some crummy John Hancock," said Hernandez, his voice weighted with bitterness.

"Whenever I get a chance to wrestle a Von Erich, I get so pumped up I think I'm gonna go into orbit. No one psyches me up like one of those punks. Seein' their blood on the canvas is one of the real pleasures in life. And beatin' them into the ground can make my whole day," Hernandez said.

And how do the Von Erichs feel about these startling attacks on their family heritage?

"You have to take it from the source," said Kevin, smiling wryly. "Gino is a very bitter guy. He's had some bruises in his life. I feel sorry for him, but it isn't my fault he had to struggle.

"And he acts like we were born with a silver spoon. Not at all. If he knew anything, which he doesn't, Gino would know that a Von Erich works for everything. My dad made us sink or swim on our own merit. He didn't do anything special for us.

"Like any experienced wrestler, he showed us moves and some ring style. But it was up to us. If we fell on our faces, we fell on our faces. My dad wouldn't sit at ringside.

"No, Hernandez is way out of line, as he usually is on most items. He wants to blame someone for his own failures and thinks my family is a handy target. What Hernandez doesn't realize is he'd better back up his big-mouth with some big maneuvers.

"As I've showed him on many occasions, he is nothing but a second-rate wrestler with a big mouth. When he learns his place, he'll be a happier man," Kevin said. □

THE INSIDER

By STEVEN FARHOOD

SCOOP OF THE MONTH

Mr. Wrestling II may accept a high position in the federal government in Washington, D.C. if President Carter is re-elected in November!

II and Carter have been close friends since the President was the Governor of the state of Georgia. Carter has kept in touch with the popular grappler during his White House years.

Have two of the most famous men in the world discussed working together in 1981? II is

understandably vague in revealing details.

"I think everyone knows how close the President and I are," the masked scientific star said. "We go back a long way. I was with Jimmy in 1976, and I'll be with him when he wins again in November."

But you didn't answer the question, II. Will you leave wrestling to join the President's staff?

"Hey, you know that for me to leave wrestling, a mighty important alternative will have to come along. Of course,

working in the Carter administration would warrant consideration as such an alternative. Whether I took such a job or not, however, I would be extremely flattered and honored to even receive consideration."

Sounds like II knows more than he's saying. Only time will tell if he will leave his millions of mat fans for Washington, D.C. II would make a fine politician. He is friendly, level-headed, intelligent, and well-spoken. His value as an ambassador to a foreign country would be unquestioned. He would also be ideal as the head of some social program, working with the people of America for their welfare—the same people who love him so dearly.

One last question, II. Does the President know what you look like without your mask?

"Some things I have to keep to myself," he answered.

Spoken like a true politician.

RUMOR VS. FACT

RUMOR: Hulk Hogan was once a 98-pound weakling who turned to body-building after a beach bully kicked sand in his face several years ago!

FACT: Hulk Hogan was underdeveloped as a teenager, but the details of the rumor are slightly inaccurate. Hogan offers his version:

"First of all, it wasn't a beach, it was a pool. I was lying around, minding my own business,



President Carter and his old friend, Mr. Wrestling II.

(Continued on page 58)

HOTSEAT

ANDRE THE GIANT: "ONE OF MY FRIENDS WILL BETRAY ME!"

***F**EW HAVE HAD the widespread, profound influence on a sport like this kind, gentle man. He has shown gentility and character strength in a profession where precious few show either. Despite never winning a title, he is loved and respected by fans and peers alike. However, recent trends disturb him. Too many men have turned against their friends. Too many forsake the principles of honesty, integrity, and fairness. Too few echo the marvelously enchanting traits of this wonderful man. He is Andre the Giant.*

INTERVIEW CONDUCTED BY BILL APTER

- Q:** Andre, thanks for taking time for this interview.
A: My pleasure, Bill.
Q: What's your opinion of wrestling?
A: Very disturbing.
Q: How so?

A: Too many people don't care for their friendships. Too much greed and too little love.

Q: Anyone in particular?

A: Well, I think the Larry

“
When I first came up... a friend was a friend, simple as that. Wrestlers helped each other, trusted each other. You knew who was enemy and who was friend.
”

Zbyszko incident has worried many people.

Q: Why?

A: Who would have thought Larry would do that to his friend Bruno? If Zbyszko will give in to greed and betray Sammartino, what is to

prevent similar attacks? If all wrestlers care about is greed, the very foundation of wrestling is threatened.

Q: Are you worried about betrayal?

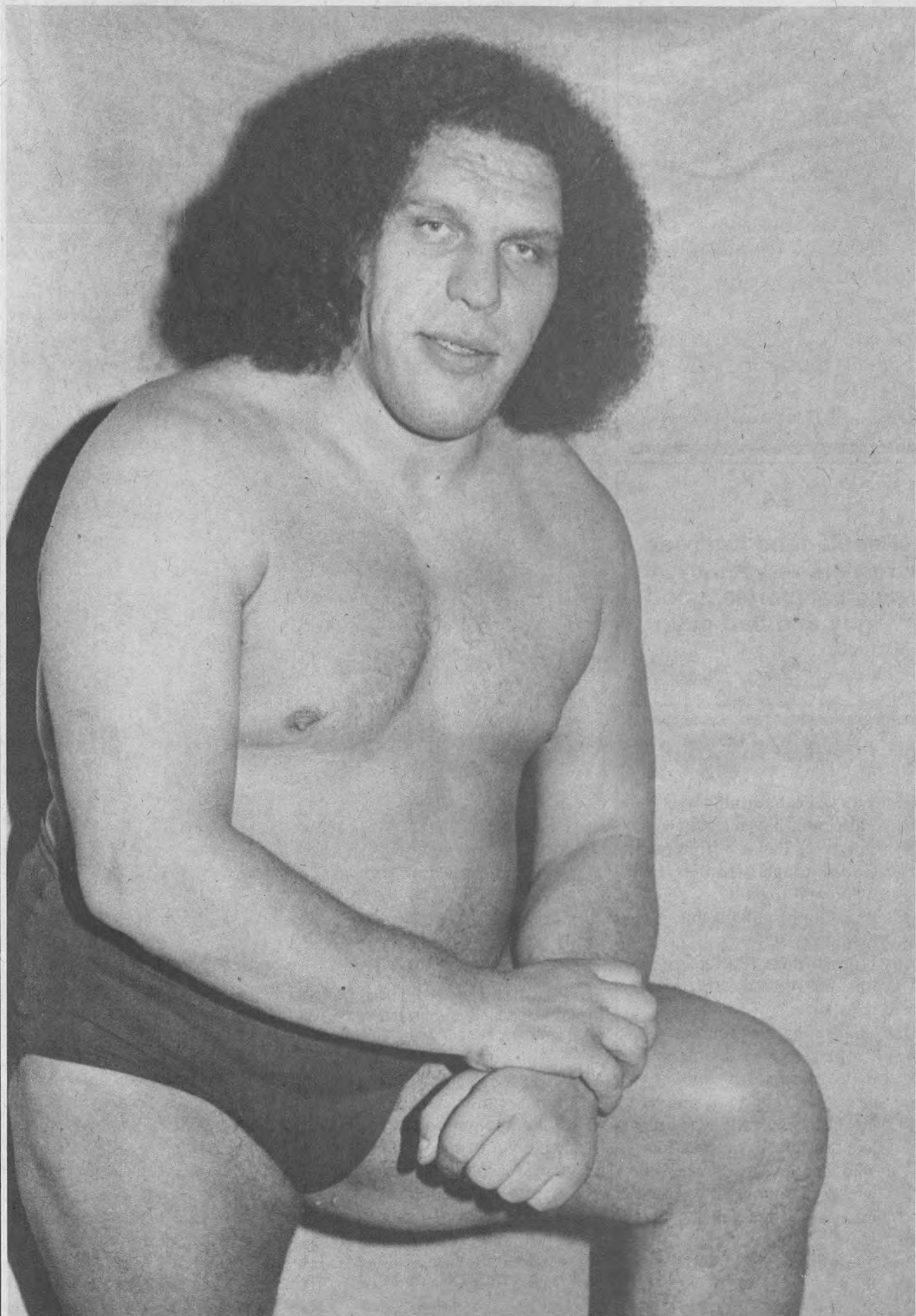
A: When I first came up, such thoughts were foreign to me. A friend was a friend, simple as that. Wrestlers helped each other, trusted each other. You knew who was enemy and who was friend. Now, you can't tell.

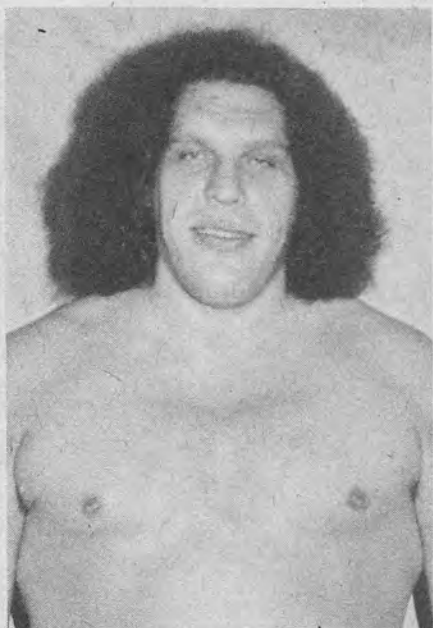
Q: You do sound concerned.

A: One of my friends will betray me. What can I do about that? Someone will offer a friend money, or he'll be jealous of me or a misunderstanding will develop. Instead of sitting down and talking, he'll attack, stab me in the back.

Q: You sound sad.

A: It is a sad state of affairs. Wrestling is such a beautiful sport.





“

People tend to divide wrestlers very neatly into two categories, good guy and bad guy.

”

Q: Let's talk about your career.

A: Fine.

Q: You've been teaming with Pat Patterson, haven't you?

A: Yes, yes, Pat is a fine man. Good, tough wrestlers. We work well together.

Q: Any doubts about his rule-breaker past?

A: I don't think Patterson can be called a scientific wrestler.

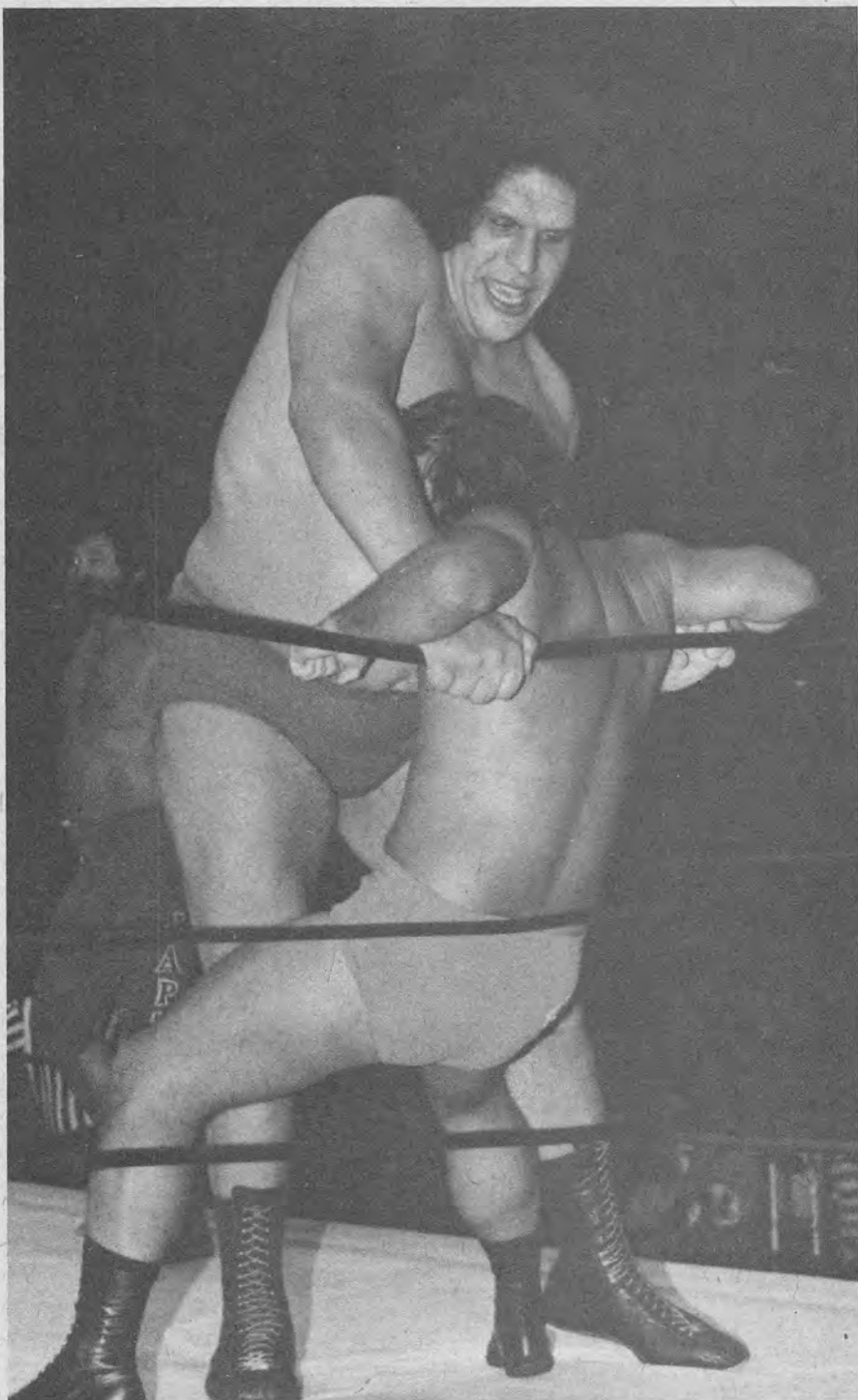
Q: That's a strange remark.

A: People tend to divide wrestlers very neatly into two categories, good guy and bad guy. You must allow for men like Patterson or Ric Flair, who are not really scientific wrestlers, more like well-intentioned brawlers.

Q: How about a very pointed question?

A: Shoot.

Q: Do you trust Patterson?



Andre the Giant is a worried man. For some reason, he is convinced that one of his friends in the sport is going to turn on him. The days when wrestlers could trust each other are gone, he said. Today you can be stabbed in the back at any time, by any man.

A: Uh, yes.

Q: You seem hesitant.

A: It'll come out wrong.

Q: Take your time, explain.

A: I am reaching the stage where I trust few people. As I see the treachery, I bring up my guard and grow more careful. I trust Patterson as much as I trust any wrestler.

Q: Which isn't much?

A: Times make you careful.

Q: How does Andre the Giant view himself at this stage in his career?

A: I work very hard in perfecting and polishing my maneuvers. I am never satisfied. I don't care about my undefeated record because that does not mean I am perfect. You can never be



Andre has all the respect in the world for Bob Backlund (above) and Mike Graham (below). He did not specifically say that he feared either of these two would turn against him, but he did not rule anybody out. Admittedly, he doesn't know who to trust.

perfect so you must always work and strive to be the very best you are capable of becoming.

Q: You still want the championship?

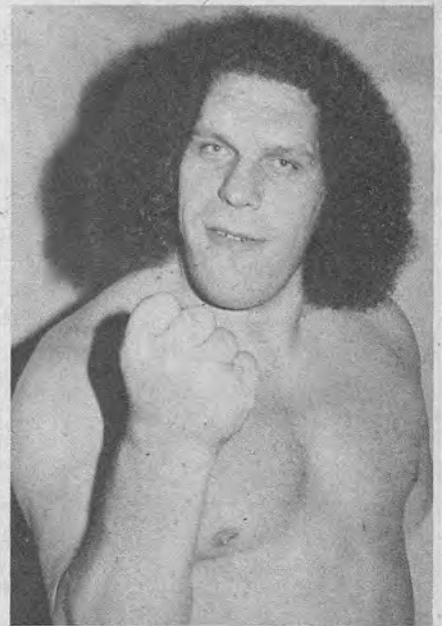
A: Which one? (Smiles)

Q: Take your pick.

A: Bill, if I didn't care about championships, I wouldn't be wrestling.

Q: Frustration at missing titles must bother you.

A: Of course. Sometimes I wonder if I am jinxed. Everything that can deprive a man of a title happens to me. It is very depressing at times. But you cannot live in the past. You must look forward into



“

Sometimes I wonder if I am jinxed. Everything that can deprive a man of a title happens to me. It is very depressing at times.

”

the future.

Q: Why don't we play the name game, I give you a name, you give me a response?

Q: Harley Race.

A: Good champion, hasn't much longer to last.

Q: Dusty Rhodes.

A: Talented, smart, reliable. One of my best friends.

Q: Mil Mascaras.

A: Great man. One of the all-time greats.

Q: Ken Patera.

A: Sniveling bum. I'm tired of hearing how he wasted his talent. Far as I am concerned, he never had much to squander.

Q: Bob Backlund.

A: Nice kid, works hard, fine champion.

Q: Andre the Giant.

A: Wants to be happy.

Q: Thanks, Andre. □

INSIDE WRESTLING'S

OFFICIAL RATINGS

These Ratings Are Compiled With The Assistance Of Top Wrestlers, Promoters, And Reporters. They Are Universally Accepted As Official

World Wrestling Federation

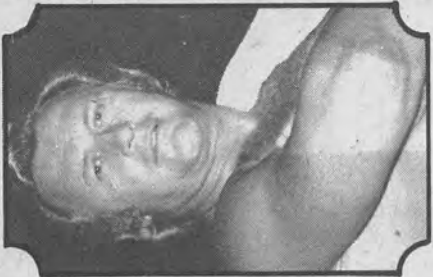


Champion: BOB BACKLUND



1—HULK HOGAN

American Wrestling Association



Champion: NICK BOCKWINKEL

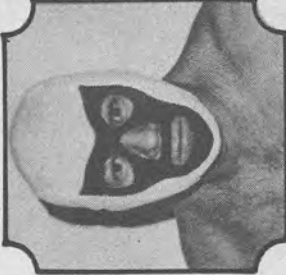


1—CRUSHER

National Wrestling Alliance



Champion: HARLEY RACE



1—MR. WRESTLING II

Most Popular Wrestlers



1—BRUNO SAMMARTINO



2—DUSTY RHODES

Most Hated Wrestlers



1—LARRY ZBYSZKO



2—KEN PATERA

Tag Teams



1—RICK STEAMBOAT & JAY YOUNGBLOOD





2—KEN PATERA



3—LARRY ZBYSZKO



4—PAT PATTERSON

- 5—IVAN PUTSKI
- 6—TONY ATLAS
- 7—AFA THE SAMOAN
- 8—TITO SANTANA
- 9—SIKA THE SAMOAN
- 10—BOBBY DUNCUM



2—VERNE GAGNE



3—DINO BRAVO



4—GREG GAGNE

- 5—MAD DOG VACHON
- 6—BILLY ROBINSON
- 7—JESSE VENTURA
- 8—SUPER DESTROYER II
- 9—CRUSHER BLACKWELL
- 10—ADRIAN ADONIS



2—DUSTY RHODES



3—JIMMY SNUKA



4—KEVIN VON ERICH

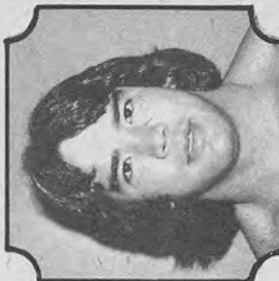
- 5—MANNY FERNANDEZ
- 6—JIM BRUNZELL
- 7—STAN STASIAK
- 8—MIL MASCARAS
- 9—RIC FLAIR
- 10—THE ASSASSIN



3—BOB BACKLUND



4—ANDRE THE GIANT



5—RICK STEAMBOAT

- 6—MR. WRESTLING II
- 7—PAT PATTERSON
- 8—IVAN PUTSKI
- 9—WAHOO McDANIEL
- 10—KEVIN VON ERICH



3—TERRY FUNK



4—HULK HOGAN



5—ERNIE LADD

- 6—MASKED SUPERSTAR
- 7—ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER
- 8—EDDY MANSFIELD
- 9—GREG VALENTINE
- 10—OX BAKER



2—THE SAMOANS



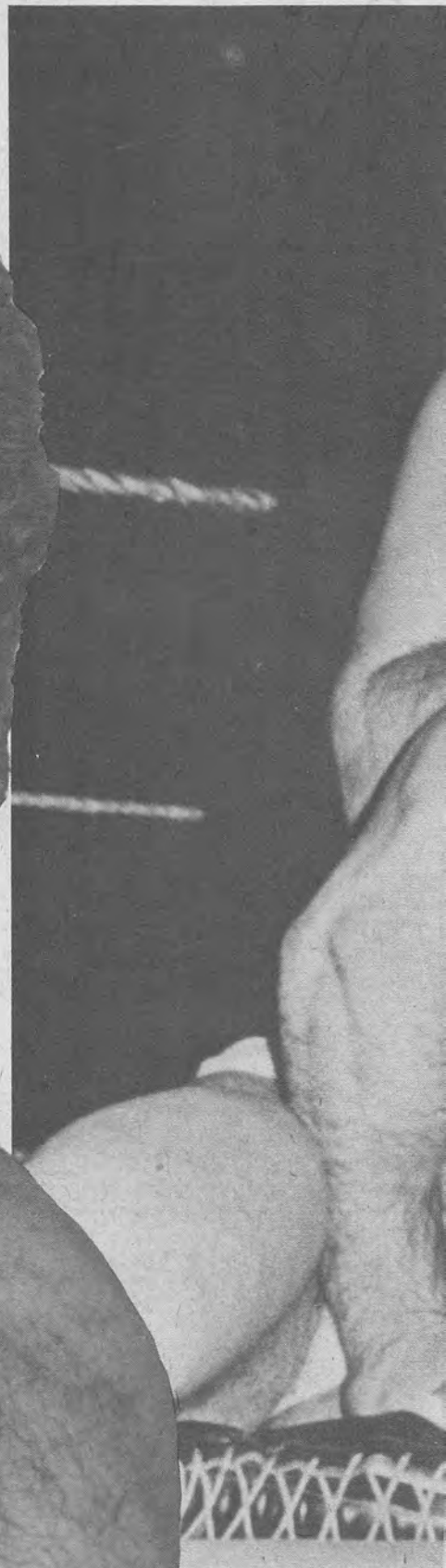
3—VERNE GAGNE &
MAD DOG VACHON

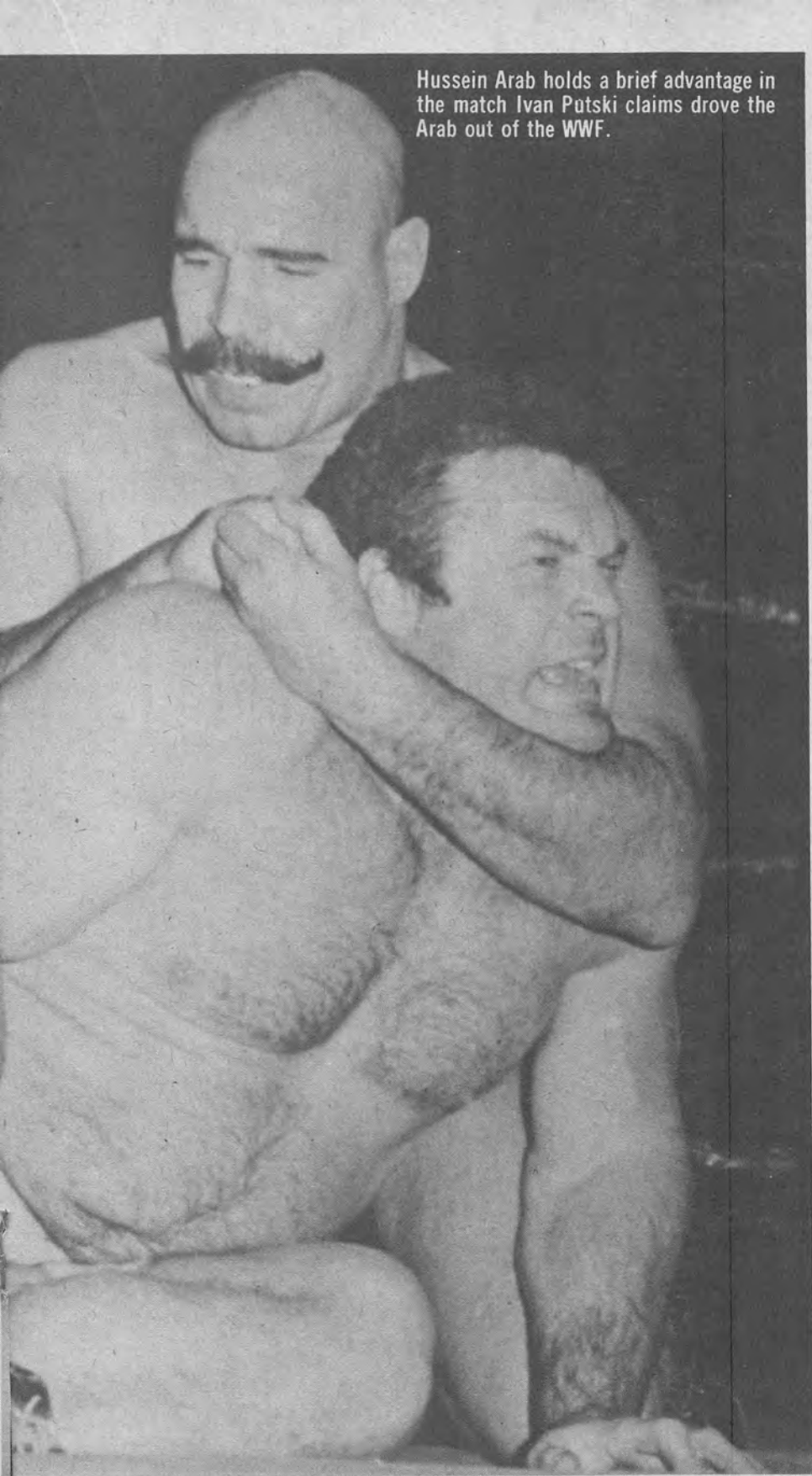


- 4—IVAN PUTSKI & TITO SANTANA
- 5—IVAN KOLOFF & ALEXIS SMIRNOFF
- 6—BRYAN ST. JOHN & STANLEY LANE
- 7—RAY STEVENS & GREG VALENTINE
- 8—MR. HITO & MR. SAKURADA
- 9—THE TWIN DEVILS
- 10—TOMMY & EDDIE GILBERT

**Ivan Putski
vs. Hussein Arab**

**A MENACE
IS DRIVEN
FROM THE WWF**





Hussein Arab holds a brief advantage in the match Ivan Putski claims drove the Arab out of the WWF.

ANY MAN WHO can force Hussein Arab out of an area has the right to brag. However, no man has the right to brag about something he didn't do.

Here are the facts: after wrestling Ivan Putski, Hussein Arab decided it would be a good idea to leave the WWF. The hated grappler quickly packed his bags and headed for the Mid-Atlantic area. The WWF was rid of one of its most despised rulebreakers.

Ivan saw Arab leave and assumed the grappler left because of their match. After all, they were supposed to wrestle again. Rather than fulfill the contract, Arab disappeared. Ivan exulted, "I drove Hussein Arab from the WWF!"

At first, no one disputed Putski's claim. Instead, everyone offered congratulations. Some said that this was even greater than winning a title. Putski was the hero of the hour.

Then the news came from the Mid-Atlantic area. Arab was enraged that anyone could call him a coward. He sent a letter to WWF headquarters.

"How dare that rat!" the letter began. "Putski is a slimy liar! A damned slimy liar! I'll have his head on a platter! How dare he!"

"For that matter, how dare you let him! You know why I left the area. They offered me twice as much money as you sleazy cheapskates! Every WWF official knows the truth! Why don't you shut Putski up? You are legally responsible for his ugly slanders! I'll see you people in court. I'm suing you all for \$1 million! No one destroys my reputation! I'll sue you all!"

(Continued on page 54)

Many times in his illustrious career, Ivan Putski has been forced to drive a dangerous virus from the WWF. Others tried and failed. Only Putski, with his tenacious courage and enormous strength, had the qualifications to throw Hussein Arab out of the WWF

PHOTOS BY BILL APTER

THERE IS A crowd gathering around the dressing room door. It is a quiet crowd, one that doesn't have much hope. They are waiting for the inevitable sorrow.

"Clear the way!" a voice shouts. The crowd parts. Two men in white carry a stretcher through the door and to a waiting ambulance. Following them is a doctor whose

face is ashen. No one has to ask the verdict. It's just a matter of learning the particulars.

"The knees are very badly damaged," the doctor said softly. "The ligaments are torn from the kneecap. They'll never heal. The young man will never wrestle again."

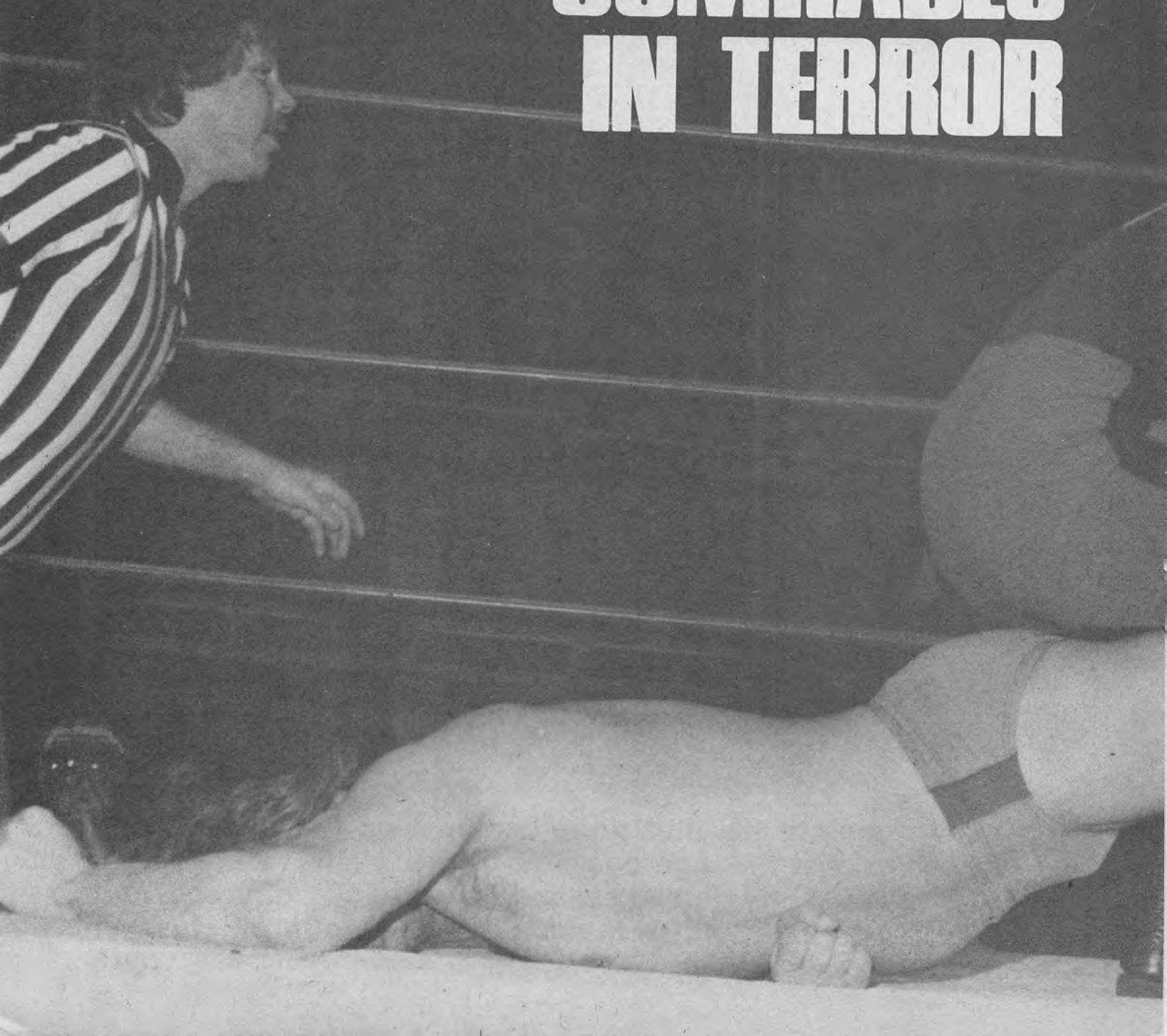
The two people responsible were not in the crowd. They were out

somewhere celebrating. For them, it was another victory. It didn't matter that a once fine athlete would have to hobble through the rest of his life. Ivan Koloff and Alexis Smirnoff had ruthlessly conquered once again.

The two men have formed the most dangerous tag team in recent memory. With a cruelty that is

KOLOFF & SMIRNOFF: COMRADES IN TERROR

PHOTOS BY MAGGIE ADKINS



both ugly and reckless, they pursue victory without regard for any decent impulse. If an opponent's career is finished, that's the breaks. They give no mercy and expect none.

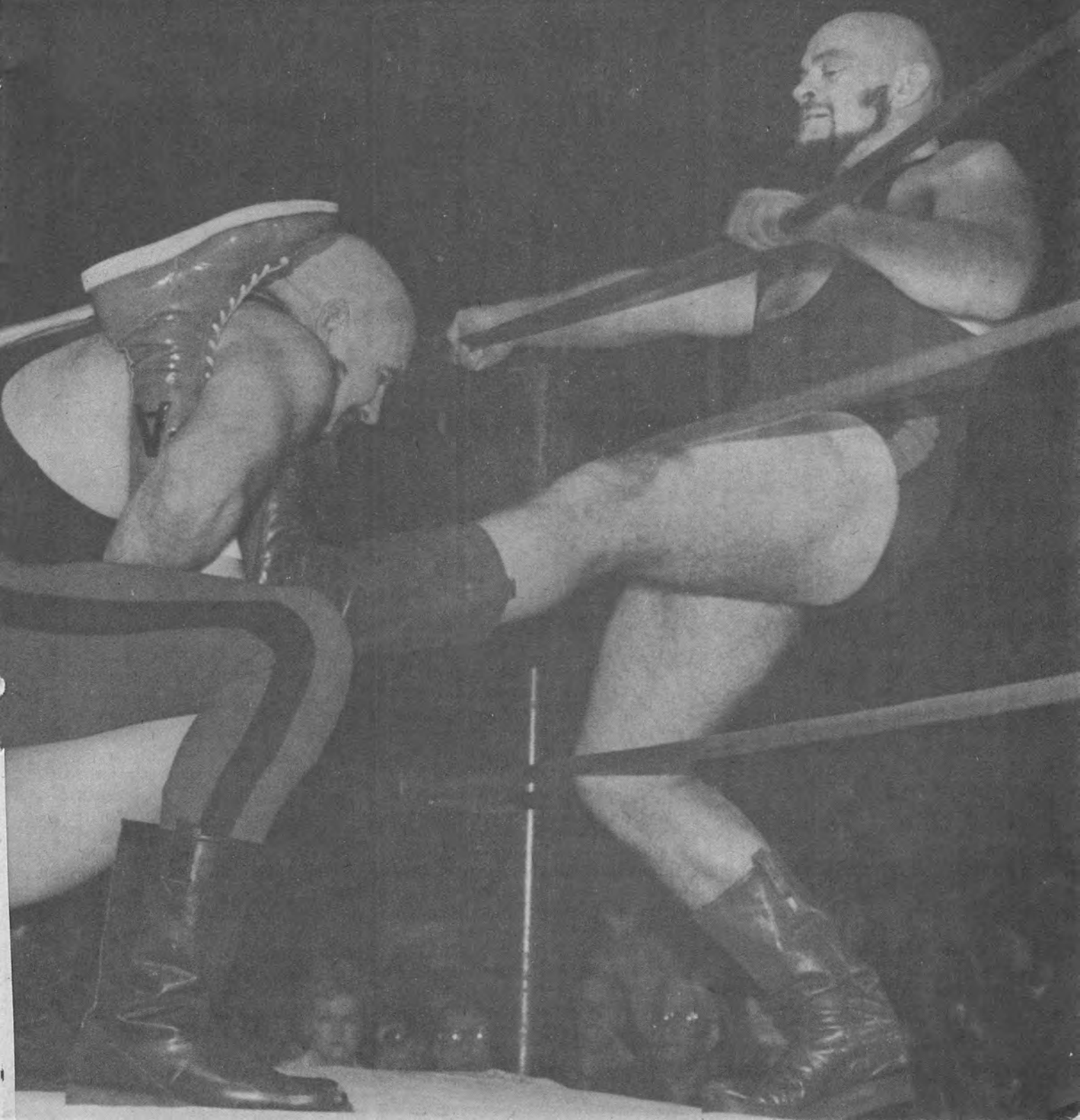
This is a frightening team. Ivan Koloff has been on many notorious tag teams; responsible for many injured grapplers. Yet, never has he so dominated an area as

he has with Alexis Smirnoff. There is a horrible ferocity in their movements that makes even hardened veterans tremble.

"They have no limits," Ole Anderson says with rage. "There is nothing they won't do to win. I've seen them destroy people even though they had the match. It's savage! Absolutely savage!

"When I wrestle them, I forget all about wrestling science. It's a street battle, the kind you have at three in the morning when bile bites the back of your throat. Some people think it's no better than animal warfare. They're wrong. We think about how to best—or worst—punish the other guy. It's

(Continued on page 56)



NEWS FROM THE

If you would like your area of the country represented in these reports, while also being officially credited with your own by-line, send us reports of the matches you attend. You will have the thrill of seeing your name in an internationally known magazine while at the same time helping to improve the quality of wrestling in your area. So why not give it a try? You will be glad you did!

Send your reports to: Correspondent Editor, Box 48, Rockville Centre, N.Y. 11571

CHICAGO, IL

By Ken Zalewski



NICK BOCKWINKEL
vs.
BRUISER



The main event on this great card featured a furious title match between AWA champion Nick Bockwinkel and Dick the Bruiser. At ringside was Bruiser Brodie, acting as Bockwinkel's "manager" this night. Brodie stood calmly until Bockwinkel was virtually out on his feet, then tried to interfere. However, Bruiser beat him back and the vicious match ended with both men counted out.

OTHER BOUTS: Dino Bravo won by disqualification over Adrian Adonis . . . Moose Cholak squashed the Bounty Hunter . . . Steve Olsonowski drew with Rick Hunter.

ASBURY PARK, NJ

By Ed Ferrara



LARRY ZBYSZKO
vs.
PAT PATTERSON



Intercontinental champion Pat Patterson went against the self-proclaimed *new* living legend, Larry Zbyszko. Patterson controlled the early part of the match, beating Zbyszko badly. Halfway through the bout, Zbyszko tossed Patterson out of the ring, followed, grabbed his head and banged it against a table. Recovering, Patterson body-slammed Zbyszko onto the wooden floor. Zbyszko climbed into the ring, Patterson a second behind. Too late. Zbyszko won by a count-out.

OTHER BOUTS: The Samoans edged Tito Santana and Rene Goulet . . . Dominic DeNucci smeared Davy O'Hannon . . . Baron Scicluna needed a metal pipe to beat Johnny Rodz.

ORLANDO, FL

By Earl Roop



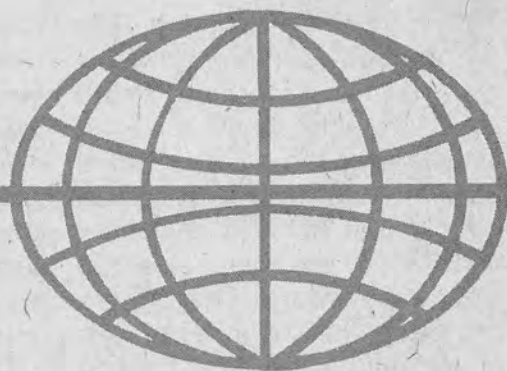
DUSTY RHODES
vs.
ERNIE LADD



The main event was a special challenge match between Dusty Rhodes and Ernie Ladd. Using an elbowsmash, Rhodes knocked Ladd to the canvas. As Ladd's manager Sir Oliver Humperdink started to interfere, Rhodes caught the bearded ghoul with another bionic elbow. A foreign object appeared in Ladd's hand. He used it on Rhodes, then tossed him out of the ring. Rhodes got back into the ring, pounded away on Ladd and finished off the big rulebreaker with a devastating bionic elbow.

OTHER BOUTS: Bugsy McGraw, Leroy Brown, and Super Destroyer won by disqualification over Mike Graham, Jim Garvin, and Jack Brisco.

WRESTLING CAPITALS

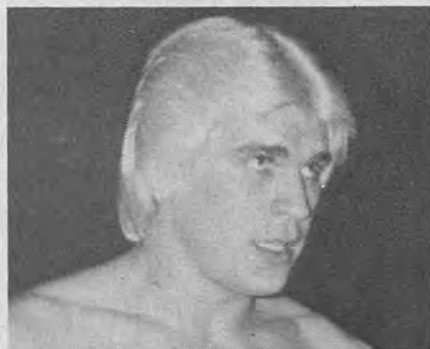


AUGUSTA, GA

By James Taylor



TERRY FUNK
vs.
TOMMY RICH



A powerful rivalry drew a huge crowd to the Civic Center. The winner would face NWA champion Harley Race the following week. Rich launched a frenzied assault as soon as the match began, withstanding a wild kneelift. After brutal brawling, Rich captured Funk and put him in the sleeper hold. After Rich was awarded the decision, Ken Patera snuck up and attacked Rich, touching off a wild melee.

OTHER BOUTS: The Superstar won by disqualification over Mr. Wrestling II . . . Ivan Koloff and Alexis Smirnoff cheated past Ole and Lars Anderson.

Jan 14 80

BOSTON, MA

By Ted Field



BRUNO SAMMARTINO
vs.
KEN PATERA



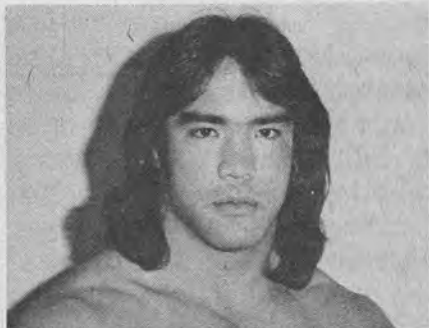
Strong man Ken Patera met Bruno Sammartino in a wild, furious match. From the outset, Sammartino appeared in control as he worked over Patera's left arm. Suddenly, Sammartino went berserk and flung Patera out of the ring, clobbering Patera into the ringsteps. Bruno climbed back into the ring. Patera hit Sammartino in the back of the head with a chair, then put on a swinging neckbreaker. Since Patera wouldn't release the hold, he lost on a disqualification.

OTHER BOUTS: Ivan Putski crushed Swede Hanson . . . Larry Zbyszko won by count-out over Hussein Arab . . . Pat Patterson bested Lou Albano.

Feb 9 80

HALIFAX, VA

By Ricky Short



RICK STEAMBOAT
vs.
PAUL JONES



And old, bitter feud came to Halifax when Rick Steamboat met Paul Jones. At first, both men wrestled scientifically. Then Jones started gouging Steamboat in the eye and trying to knee him in the groin. Steamboat's new-found maturity held up as he refused to lose his temper and kept to his game plan. Steamboat caught Jones in a figure four leglock. Suddenly, Steamboat released the hold and challenged Jones to continue, but Jones said he'd had enough.

OTHER BOUTS: Baron Von Raschke held off Jay Youngblood . . . Len Denton downed Abe Jacobs . . . Bill White halted David Patterson

THERE ARE FEW people in a railroad station at three o'clock in the morning. There are those who stayed too long at wherever they were. Others have no other place to go. A couple just decided that they had to be anyplace else but where they were. Then, there are those like Steve Keirn, who figure this is the best time to leave when you want to avoid goodbyes.

Steve leaned against a platform post as he waited for his train. The container of coffee in his hand was unopened and forgotten. The newspaper, as far as Steve could see, was filled with news of other people. There was a gnawing in Steve's belly that had nothing to do with hunger. He couldn't understand. How at the same time could he be terrified and never more sure of himself?

The sound of the train was heard in the distance. Reflexively, Steve touched the ticket in his pocket. New York, New York. Somehow, it seemed as if that was always his destination.

The train stopped. The doors opened. For a moment, Steve thought he would run away. Then, decisively, he walked through the train doors. Come hell or high water, he was on his way.

Most people in the train were asleep. That was okay with Steve. He didn't feel like company. There was nothing anybody had to say to him.

The train started. Steve looked up at the emergency cord. One yank and the train would stop. He'd get off,

resume his life, be with his friends, and be cheered by the fans who loved him. Instead of reaching for the cord, Steve clenched his fists.

It was a long train ride, from Miami to New York, but that suited Steve fine. He was in no hurry. The rocking of the train lulled him to sleep.

There were dreams. Steve

dreamed of failure, of being defeated in his first WWF match. He also dreamed of monsters that smothered him, demons who sapped his strength, and towering buildings that came crashing down on his head. He awoke when the porter announced breakfast was being served.

Steve walked to the dining

WHAT IS STEVE KEIRN DOING IN THE WWF?



Steve Keirn reaches back to throw a right at Johnny Valiant's open mouth in a match in Miami (above) and goes high in the air to smash Pak Song's leg in Tampa (opposite right).

What motivated Steve Keirn to forsake the warmth and mellow beaches of Florida for the riotous tumult of the WWF? What propelled him on the long train ride, consumed by inner dilemmas, besieged by doubt? Why did Steve Keirn come to the WWF?

car. In it were hungry travelers ending their vacations. Steve looked at them carefully. These were people from the Northeast. He would soon be living among them. Would they accept him? Could he accept them? Steve didn't eat a hearty breakfast.

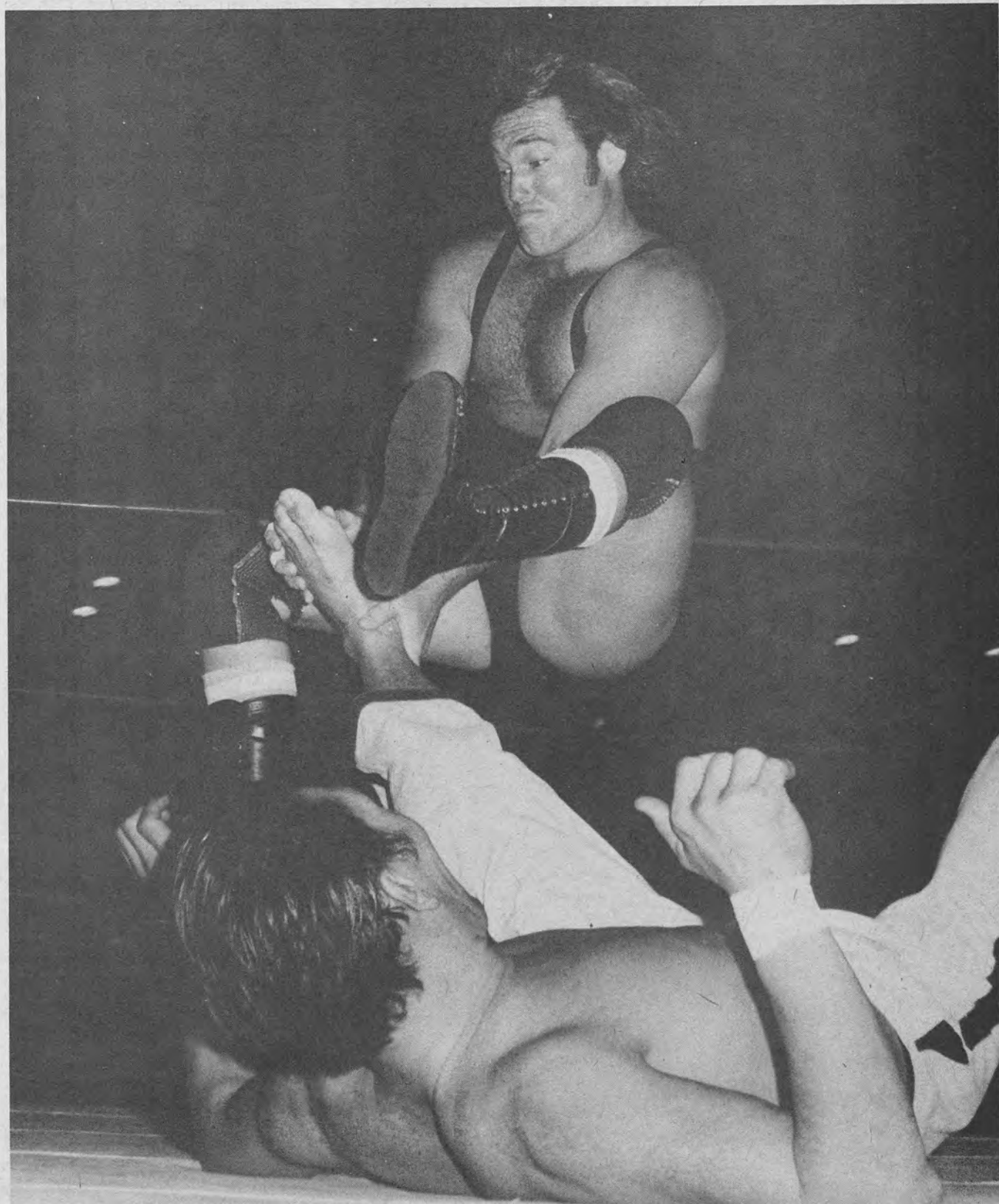
It takes more than 30 hours to go from Miami to New York.

Some people say that's the difference between two different worlds. Steve had to find out if that was true.

He thought back to a week ago. Representatives of the WWF had offered him a contract he couldn't refuse. It wasn't the money, though, that made the offer so tempting. No one was more surprised than

Steve when something inside him forced him to accept. What about the WWF drew him so powerfully? He was going on this trip to find out.

Strange. Up until the moment he saw the contract, Steve had been happy just where he was. He had never even considered leaving the NWA. Then, when the contract was placed before





Keirn uses all his strength to apply a sleeper hold, coming very close to capturing the NWA title in Orlando. Keirn arrived and disappeared from the WWF area, but the offer that brought him there still remains.

him, Steve realized there was nothing he wanted more than to go north.

It had been hard saying goodbye to his friends. Most of them didn't understand. Others felt betrayed. A few were happy for him and wished him luck. So many times, he wanted to tell them he changed his mind. Who needs the north, anyway. At that moment, something inside would strangle the words. He got the urge for going and he simply had to go.

At each stop, Steve thought about getting off and heading back. He only got off when they reached New York. Stiff, tired, a bit scared, he got off at Penn Station. A policeman told him the station was in the same building as Madison Square Garden. Asking a couple more people for directions, Steve made his way to the famous arena.

A guard stopped him. "Nothing going on here now, buddy," the man said. "No sense going in there now."

"I'm going to be wrestling there," Steve said, "and I just wanted to see what it's like."

"You'll see soon enough, then. I can't let you in."

Keirn took a cab to the WWF offices. However, his scheduled appointment was delayed. Keirn waited. And waited. When the local promoter came into the reception area, Keirn was gone.

Why didn't Steve Keirn stay in the WWF? Did he feel his trip north had been a mistake? Or did Steve Keirn suddenly realize he had too much unfinished business in Florida?

One plane ride and Steve Keirn was home. □

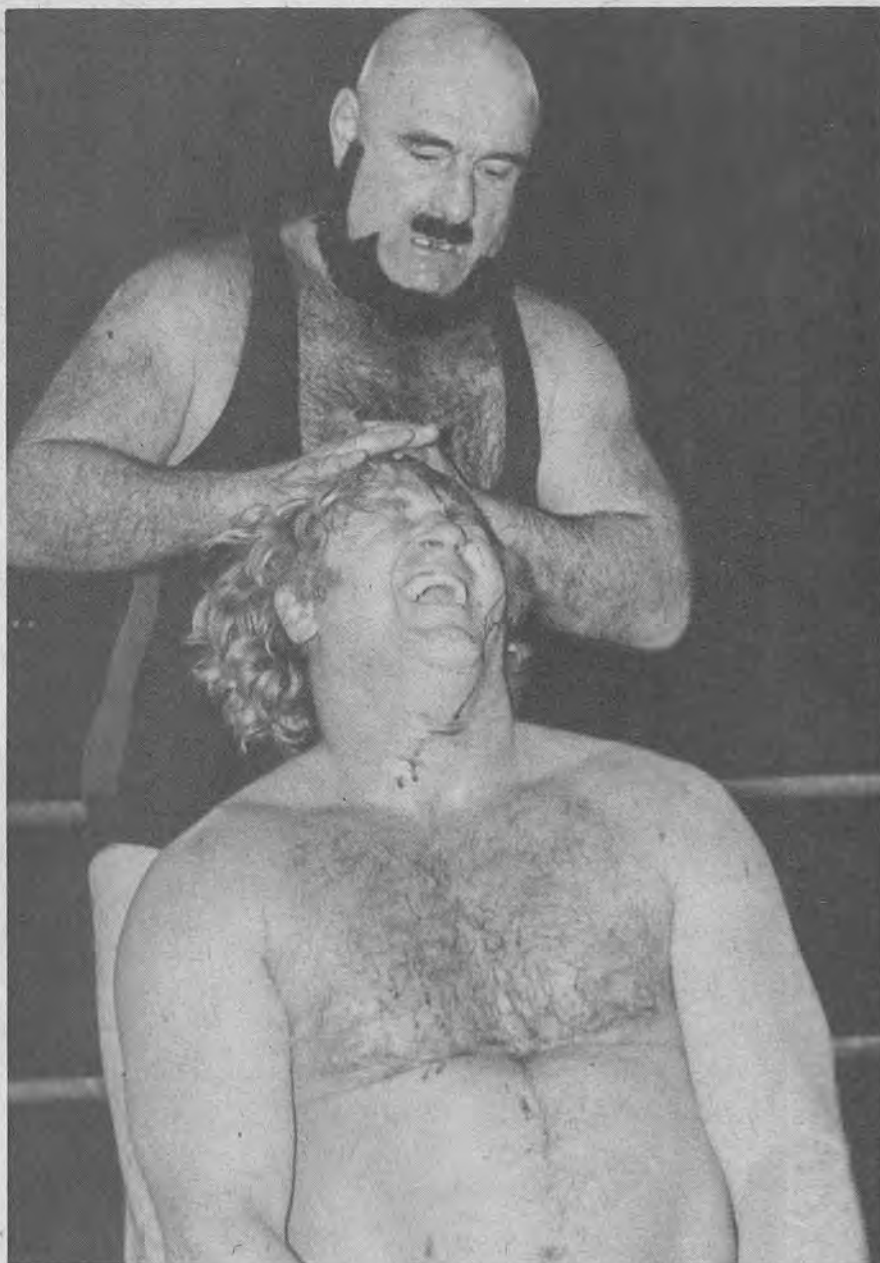
INSIDE WRESTLING

47

capsule profile

REALIZED A LIFETIME dream with the winning of the AWA tag team title with Verne Gagne (*"About time they stopped cheatin' me of my just due"*)... Some thought Gagne would exact a moderating influence on his often bizarre behavior (*"Ain't been able to stop or change me know"*)... Still a wildeyed brawler (*"I ain't no different than I was years ago. I like to beat on people then and I surely enjoy it now"*)... A throwback to the old days of warring and brawling (*"I don't go none for the dainty style of wrestlin'. I like to move in and mix 'em up, batter the boobs from here to there"*)... He and Gagne are an odd couple (*"Verne's a good man. Tough, fair, knows how to handle a partner. He ain't on some ego trip. I like him"*)... Particularly despises AWA champion Nick Bockwinkel (*"Man ain't got no guts. Without guts you're nothin' in this sport. He's afraid of a real fight and a real wrestler."*

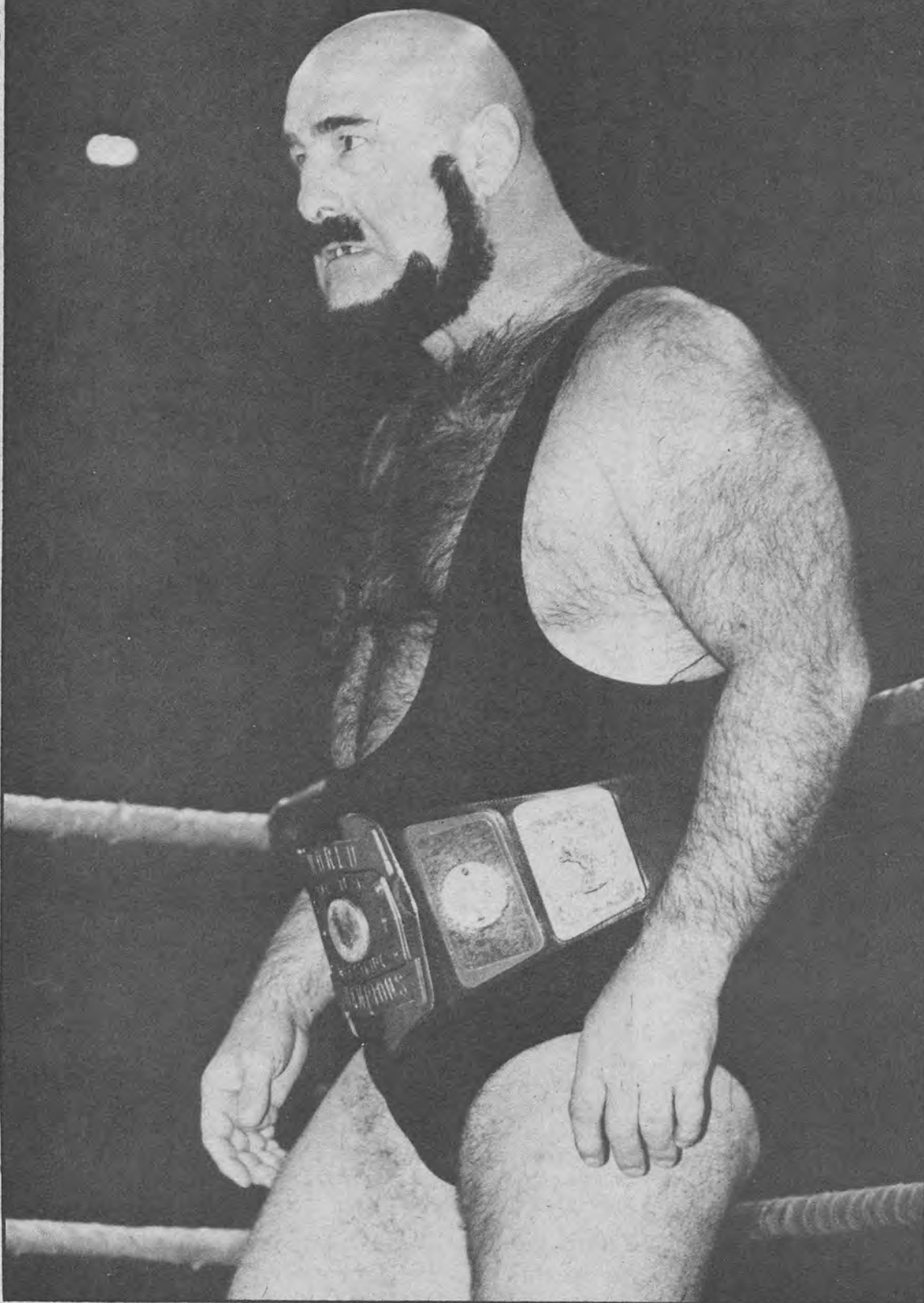
MAD DOG VACHON



Mad Dog Vachon bloodies AWA champion Nick Bockwinkel, a man he says "has no guts." In years past, one of the AWA area's premier rulebreakers, Vachon continues to be cheered as Verne Gagne's tag team partner. He claims, however, that he is still the same brawler he always was.

That's why he runs away before he gets his face rearranged")... Doesn't care for Bobby Heenan ("Hah, calls himself Brains. Sits on whatever brains he got. Guy lives on others. Hates managers. Lousy parasites")... Refuses to compromise his principles ("I'm what I am. Ain't never sold out and ain't about to now. I live by my rules and no lame tells me otherwise"). □

CAPSULE PROFILE PIN-UP



MAD DOG VACHON

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Each day, out of the thousands of letters we receive, hundreds of them are from fans asking the whereabouts of their favorite wrestler. In this special column, we will try to answer the questions you ask the most!



HUSSEIN ARAB

Driven from the WWF, Hussein Arab seeks to hide his name under the name "Iron Sheik." Fans in the Mid-Atlantic hate Arab as much as WWF fans did. He has threatened both Rick Steamboat and Jay Youngblood with bloody extermination.

DICK SLATER

Slithering his bad guy tentacles toward Florida. Slater doesn't hide his distaste for the Brisco brothers and Dusty Rhodes. Once Slater decides to invade an area, he marshals all his energies to the systematic destruction of every scientific wrestler.



DUTCH SAVAGE

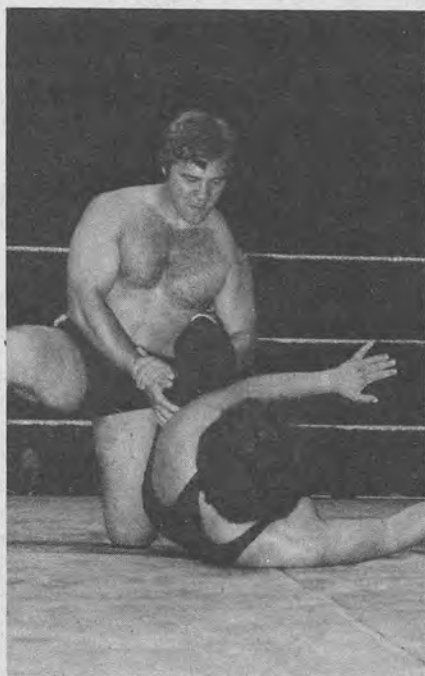
Veteran is still delighting fans in the Pacific Northwest. He and Stan Stasiak have developed a warm friendship. Savage says he won't be content until all rulebreakers are banished from the Pacific Northwest. And Savage is just the man for the job.

JIM VALIANT

The "Handsome" one is in Memphis, where his eery antics and cool arrogance puzzle the public and peers. Wrestlers don't know how to handle Valiant, who has stated his desire for several titles, among them Harley Race's NWA belt.



ONE ON



(Someone must understand Larry Zbyszko's plight. Criticized by fans, peers, and the press, Zbyszko wages a lonely war to salvage his career. Unfortunately, Zbyszko elected personal salvation at the expense of Bruno Sammartino. Despite repeated attempts to explain, Zbyszko remains a villified outcast. However, one man understands. Or tries to understand. That man is Zbyszko's former partner and co-holder of the WWF title, Tony Garea. From their homes, Garea and Zbyszko discuss the most shocking wrestling story of the year.)



Picturephone photos courtesy of Bell Telephone.

TONY GAREA:

Larry, I've been calling and calling.

LARRY ZBYSZKO:

I got an unlisted number. Too

many crank calls.

TG: How are things?

LZ: I won't lie. Kinda tough. Isn't easy being alone.

TG: Can I ask why?

Every month the telephone wires will crackle as two top grapplers rage and argue. We'll print the unedited transcript of their conversations, giving the fans a privileged glimpse at wrestlers which can be found nowhere else

NONE



LZ: Will you try and understand?

TG: I'll listen. Even if I don't agree, at least I'll hear you out.

LZ: Well, you know how Sammartino hogs attention. Always he's the number one, the living legend, the greatest. Always how *he* taught us, never allowing anyone to think we might have taught him.

TG: Go on.

LZ: I couldn't stand it anymore. I've got my own life to lead and won't take interference anymore. I had no choice, Tony. I tried talking to Bruno and all he'd say was, "Larry, I'll take care of you." I don't want anyone taking care of me. I've my own career and I want my own glory. Look, if I fall flat on my face, at least

I'm doing it by myself, on my own merits, as Larry Zbyszko, not Bruno's protege.

TG: Couldn't you do this without attacking Sammartino?

LZ: No.

TG: Please explain.

LZ: It was something deep inside me. Sammartino grew to represent something, a, oh, I had to get him out of the way. Maybe I always wondered if I really was as good as Sammartino. I had to prove that to myself. Me, I was the most important judge and jury.

TG: Did you?

LZ: Yes.

TG: Wouldn't it have proved more if you'd beaten him fairly?

LZ: Don't give me that...

TG: No, now listen, Larry, I'm
(Continued on page 64)

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BEHIND THE DOOR

(Continued from Page 8)

country has to offer. He did not make up the name "American Dream;" it was given to him. I always felt that way, but I could never before admit to myself that I could break free of Oliver Humperdink's reins and fight for what I truly believed in."

That is, until recently. Sir Oliver Humperdink has publicly criticized McGraw for several tag team losses involving his wrestlers. Buggy was very upset by this but said nothing. His feelings erupted, though, in a match in which he teamed with Volkoff against the team of Rhodes and Manny Fernandez in Tampa.

"Humperdink would not get off my case the whole match," McGraw said. "He blamed me for everything, Volkoff did wrong. This is not right. This Russian comes into our country and is treated better than myself, a full-fledged American. So I hit them both."

Bugsy McGraw, apparently, now waves his flag for the scientific side of wrestling.

• • •

An incredible coincidence occurred that I must relate. Not long ago, I had just come back to New York after doing some extensive traveling for an investigative story I'm working on. I was getting my notes together in the office when my editor looked at my bloodshot eyes and told me I was looking a bit rundown. He insisted I take a vacation.

I told him I was fine, that there was too much to do in the investigation to take time off. He insisted I go, however, promising that he would call me if anything broke on the story.

I did not want the vacation,

but there are certain people you don't argue with, and my editor is one of them. I decided to take my vacation in St. Louis, where it just so happens, my investigation would have taken me next. And if I did just a little work while I was on vacation, my editor would never know.



Supposedly in St. Louis to take a rest from his grueling WWF schedule, Bob Backlund booked himself a match against Tom Andrews.

I was walking through the lobby of the Warwick Hotel in St. Louis when I heard a familiar voice call my name. I turned around to see a smiling Bob Backlund. "What the hell are you doing here?" I asked in utter astonishment. The last person I expected to see in St. Louis (other than my editor) was the WWF champion.

"Stu," he said. "The reason I came down here is Arnie [Backlund's manager Arnold Skoaland]. He said I was looking a bit sluggish lately. Said I should take a week off. So I said I would be vacationing in St. Louis, and when I got here, I booked a match on my own. What the heck."

I started laughing uncontrollably. "What are you laughing about," he asked. "I don't need a vacation. I want to keep wrestling. Arnie doesn't understand that."

"Let's go to lunch," I said, still laughing. "I'll explain." ☐

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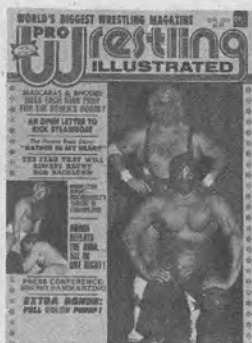
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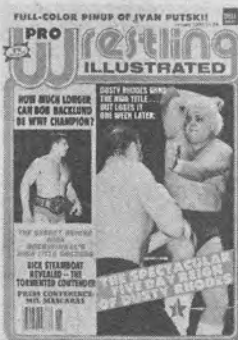
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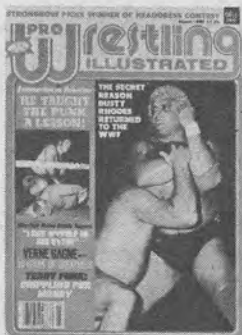


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ON THE ROAD

(Continued from Page 12)

whispered.

"Keep 'em off guard, get a better story that way," Matt said, slipping the card between the door and frame. I shrugged. He was the veteran. Brock grinned, placed his index finger against his lips and motioned for me to follow. I did. We made it into the room. That was our first mistake.



From just a short interview, Matt Brock deduced that Blassie would do anything within his managerial powers to make Hogan a champion.

A huge blond arm grabbed Matt's neck and lifted him off the ground, flung him into the living room and reached for me. I wish I could report some heroics, some instantaneous reaction, using my pen as a sword, biting, anything. All I did was gasp as this huge hand seized my throat and tossed me toward Brock. I toppled next to

him, bounced up and saw Hogan glowering and Blassie snickering.

"Using the cardit card, huh, Brock?" Blassie cackled.

"Always worked before." Brock rose, dusted off his worn plaid sports jacket and smiled. The man is incredibly cool. "I like to get there before the subjects do."

"This is our room," growled Hogan. He stepped toward us, a foot away. I stood, mustered strength and thought of something to say.

"Oh yeah?"

Everyone laughed. I blushed and slumped into the chair, about to witness the master reporter-charmer go into full tilt.

"This guy any good?" Brock pointed his pencil at Hogan.

"He's the greatest, pencil-neck geek, the best, he'll crush the..."

"Cut it, Blassie. Give it to me straight, cut the rhetoric. Is this muscle-bound baboon a goon or any good?"

Hogan's hand clenched Brock's shoulder. I winced, expecting to hear the sound of bone breaking. Yet Matt didn't move.

"You want the truth, the facts, you'll print them?"

"Go on," Matt said, ignoring Hogan.

"Away," Blassie snapped, dismissing Hogan, who slithered away and sat next to me. I smiled, he glared, and I watched Brock, feeling myself a hostage. "Hogan's got one thing no wrestler I've ever managed had: complete courage. Nothing deters him. He will bleed, break an arm, lose an eye, eat a chair, get hit by a pipe, doesn't matter. He's got guts. He has that killer instinct. Print that."

Brock grinned. He had his story. I think. By now I was completely bewildered. Simply leaving with my head intact made me thankful. As we climbed into the cab, I asked Matt what story he got.

"Blassie will stick by Hogan, put all his resources into making him champ." Matt Brock had done it again. □

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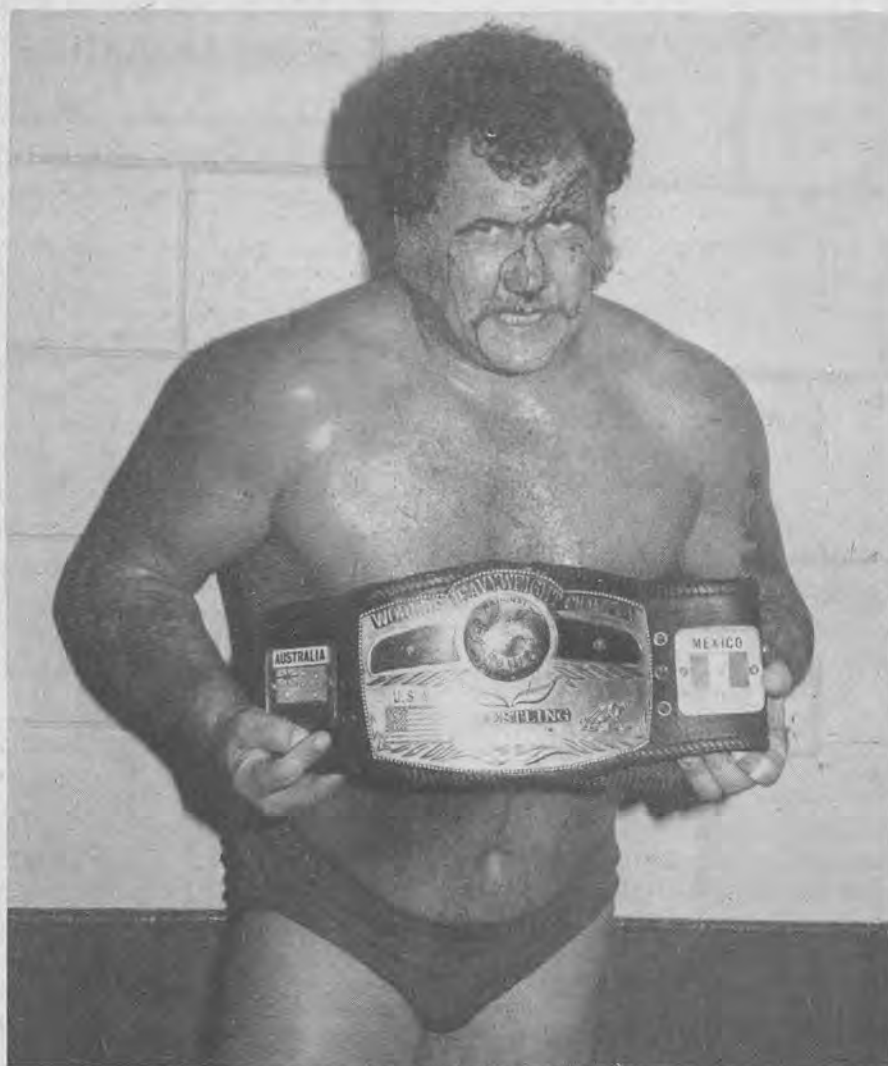
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SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from Page 18)



Reader Chris Thode has kind words for Dan Shocket's column on NWA champion Harley Race (March/1980). Thode respects Race for never turning down a challenge.

such a great champ? Simple. Unlike Nick Bockwinkel, he never avoids a title contender. Look at the men he has met and defeated. Now matter how he wins his matches, he WINS. And that is all that counts in the record books.

Unlike Bob Backlund, he wrestles to defend the NWA title, not the wrestling fans. I am a great fan of wrestling, not wrestlers. I do not especially like Harley Race, but I respect the man. Why would he be so upset at Terry Funk's interference in the title rematch against

Rhodes? Because Race is a man and wants to win on his own, without cheap shots.

I know Harley does not always follow the rules, but rules are made to be broken. Tell me Backlund never broke a rule. Tell me Bockwinkel wrestles every match by the book. Race wrestles aggressively and should not be condemned for it.

CHRIS THODE
Milwaukee, WI

RETIRE BRUNO

I'm tired of listening to Bruno Sammartino. He should retire before he gets hurt. Maybe he could become another Howard Cosell.

KEVIN DONAHUE
Jersey City, NJ □



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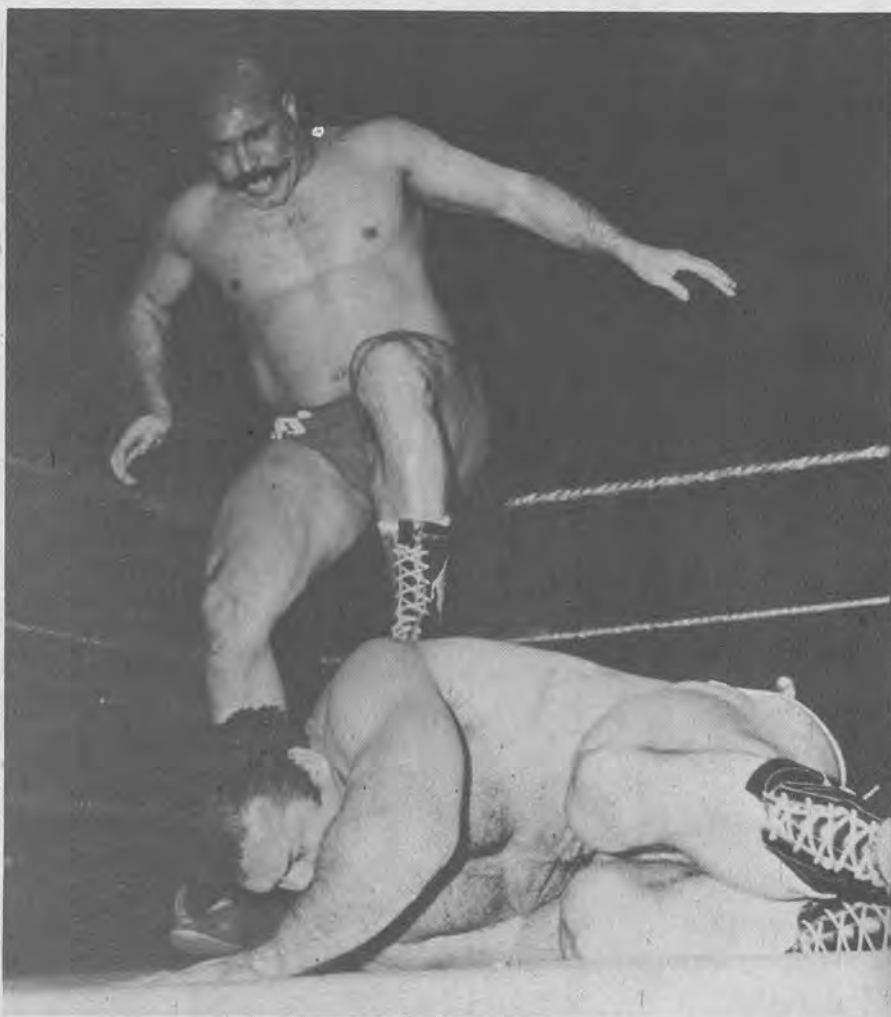
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A MENACE IS DRIVEN FROM THE WWF

(Continued from Page 35)



After taking an early beating, Ivan Putski came back to give Hussein a thrashing. Arab arrived in the Mid-Atlantic shortly thereafter. Just why he left the WWF is the point of contention.

That's when the trouble came down. The WWF officials, to avoid the lawsuit, asked Putski not to say anything. Now Ivan became enraged. Arab's threat was destroying his glory. Now a lawsuit would make Ivan keep quiet. He believed himself to be responsible for Arab's flight. He had a right to say no.

The more one looked into the situation, the more confusing it becomes. Here's what the Mid-Atlantic officials have to say: "We offered Hussein Arab a healthy contract before his match' with Ivan Putski. We

purposely offered him more than the WWF. However, he gave us no definite date as to when he would arrive. He did not have to come to the Mid-Atlantic when he did. He chose to come after his match against Ivan Putski."

What the Mid-Atlantic officials are saying is that both men could be right. After all, why shouldn't Arab leave the WWF if he earns more money someplace else. Yet, why didn't he leave immediately? The WWF says Arab wasn't obligated to wrestle Putski. Hussein could have left before the Putski match. In fact, before the Putski match, WWF officials claim Arab promised to stay in the area for a year.

It gets even more confusing when films of the match are examined. There are three moments when Putski has Arab in agony. At each time, Arab does escape and continue to wrestle effectively. It's obvious Arab is having a horrible time of it. Still, there's nothing definite that one could say which made Arab have to leave. In fact, one wouldn't have been surprised if Putski left the area after the battle. It was an inhumanly tough match.

If Arab actually does sue Putski and the WWF, the courts will have to decide whether Arab fled in terror. That would solve everything. Chances are, though, the case will never come to court. The best legal minds say Arab would be a fool to go that far. Just the threat of suing has tainted Putski's glory. Even if Arab won his case, it wouldn't mean that much more. There is no way he'd get \$1 million or close to it. It would be hard for him to win enough to cover legal costs.

So, it now comes down to who you believe. Putski could be mistaken. Arab could be lying. There's no sure way to know.

Sadly, Ivan's greatest moment has turned against him. No one knows better than he that his glory is gone. No one can be sure if Ivan deserves the credit. Ivan insists he drove Arab out, but his voice has lost its joy. The delight of accomplishment has been taken from him.

As for Arab, he lives under the cloud of cowardice. There's no way he can prove that Ivan didn't drive him out of the WWF. His reputation may never be the same again. He even changed his name to "Iron Sheik."

There is only one thing for sure. Hussein "Iron Sheik" Arab is out of the WWF. Wrestlers in the federation can be grateful, no matter what the reason! ☐

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KOLOFF & SMIRNOFF

(Continued from Page 37)



Alexis Smirnoff holds Lars Anderson by his throat in the corner while Ivan Koloff leaps high in the air to kick Lars' thigh. The Russian duo has put several opponents in the hospital—all in an evening's work.

cold and vicious.

"I can wrestle like that. I don't want to, but I will if I must. Too many guys think they can battle that way and they can't. Those guys wind up in a hospital and a different profession. It doesn't take great talent to cripple a guy. All it takes is the will to destroy. That's what makes Koloff and Smirnoff different from most wrestlers. They have the will.

"What's really scary is they don't do it to be mean. They really don't care about the other guy. They wouldn't blink if I dropped dead in a match. They just don't care."

Koloff knows what they're saying about the team and he loves it. Ivan is one of the few wrestlers whose success in a tag team is equal to his' success, when wrestling

alone. There is something powerful about the Russian's personality. Usually, a good tag team partner is one who can adapt to many different styles. Somehow, Koloff makes his partners adapt to him. No one has ever adapted as well as Smirnoff.

"We can do it all," Ivan immodestly states. "We're the greatest tag team ever. Do you know why? Because we understand each other. Both of us were born in Russia. We have a heritage of ruthless conquest. We are both descendants of men who rode with Ghengis Khan. Destroy everything in your path. The bloodlust courses through our veins.

"People say we have no mercy. They are right. Mercy is for losers. To win in this world means you

have no mercy. People say we torture our foes. That is wrong. We do what we must to win. We don't put names on our maneuvers.

"We are afraid of no one. Any team may challenge us and we'll accept. They can do what they want. We will not complain. All we ask is that they don't hide behind the referee.

"Someone once asked how I'd feel if an opponent ended my



Smirnoff (background) grins while Anderson grimaces from the force of Koloff's bearhug.

career. That does not even cross my mind. If I ended my career in a match I won, I'd be happy. If I ended my career in a match I lost, I'd be sad. Alexis is the only partner I've ever had who fully understands this.

"Our ancestors believed, 'Take no prisoners.' I believe that. Alexis believes that. Conquest is all-important."

A few days after his injury, the young wrestler was released from the hospital. He needed crutches to walk. When asked what he planned to do next, tears welled up in his eyes and a strangled sob was the only sound he could make.

At that moment, Koloff and Smirnoff were in the gym, preparing for their next opponents. Or victims. ☐

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THE INSIDER

(Continued from Page 27)

when some turkey comes over and kicks garbage on my blanket. So I got up and kicked the crap out of the guy. I never saw him again."

RUMOR: George Steele has been inactive in professional wrestling because he has joined

the Hari Krishna movement! Steele hands out literature and plays the bongo drums on the buses of Detroit. He lives solely for the movement, and he survives on a strict diet of flower petals and sparkling water.

FACT: While Steele hasn't



While it is true that George Steele (above) is one of the few Americans that can listen to Ravi Shankar music for more than five minutes at a time, the rumor that he has joined the Hari Krishna movement is false. Lars Anderson (below) is back in action after suffering a leg injury at the hands of Alexis Smirnoff and Ivan Koloff.



appeared in the squared circle in recent months, there are absolutely no substantial facts to verify this rumor. Crazy stories are always circulating in Detroit about Steele's whereabouts. But we know he eats more than flower petals. He's been feasting on turnbuckle-stuffing for years! Love ya, George.

INJURY REPORT

LARS ANDERSON has recuperated from the leg injury he suffered during a tag team match against Georgia champions, ALEXIS SMIRNOFF and IVAN KOLOFF. The Russian duo punished Anderson for several minutes. Anderson was unable to crawl across the ring to tag his brother, Ole. □

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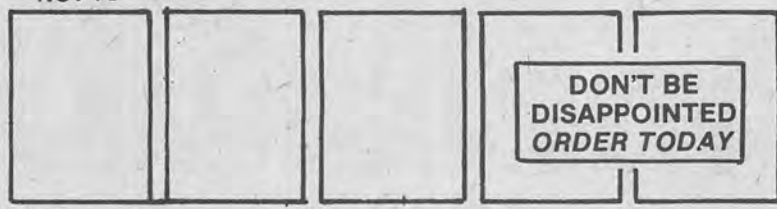
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ANN/SPR 79	ANN/SUM 79	ANN/NOV/79	ANN/FEB 80
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FALL 76	WINTER 76	SPRING 77	SUMMER 77	FALL 77
				
WINTER 77	SPRING 78	SUMMER 78	FALL 78	WINTER 78
				
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- ☐ Great Battles/Apr 77
- ☐ Great Battles/July 77
- ☐ Great Battles/Fall 77
- ☐ Great Battles/Win 77
- ☐ Great Battles/Spr 78
- ☐ Great Battles/Sum 78
- ☐ Great Battles/Win 78
- ☐ Great Battles/Oct 77
- ☐ Great Battles/Sum 79
- ☐ Great Battles/Nov 79

- ☐ ANNUAL 1
- ☐ ANNUAL 2
- ☐ ANNUAL 4
- ☐ ANNUAL/Sum 78
- ☐ ANNUAL/Fall 78
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- ☐ Superstars/Dec 77
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- ☐ Superstars/Oct 79
- ☐ Superstars/Jan 80
- ☐ Superstars/Spr 80

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- ☐ Best of Wres/Sum 77
- ☐ Best of Wres/Fall 77
- ☐ Best of Wres/Win 77
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- ☐ Best of Wres/Sum 78
- ☐ Best of Wres/Fall 78
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Feb/65
PEPPER GOMEZ

Pinups are listed under each issue.

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March/65
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BODYSLAMS & PINFALLS

(Continued from Page 10)

as if he had to kill his best friend to save himself. Even then, Zbyszko wasn't aware of how shabbily Bruno had treated him. The young grappler was brainwashed by the hypocritical nonsense Bruno has been spewing for years.

Then it happened. Larry fell out of the ring. Bruno, a man who knows how to make an insult look like help, opened the ropes to make it easier for Zbyszko to get back in the ring.

For years he has kept Zbyszko down. Then he is forced into giving Larry a chance and then humiliates Zbyszko. It's the lowest kind of man who would do that.

Sammartino has revealed himself to be a petty man fearful for his image and popularity. When a man came along that could possibly overshadow Sammartino, Bruno did everything in his sly power to destroy that youngster. It



Zbyszko stretches the arm of Executioner #2 to the cheers of the crowd. Larry is no longer the crowd's favorite.

If you think about that gesture for a moment, it becomes the nastiest sort of insult. Zbyszko could have gotten back in the ring very easily by himself. Would Bruno have done that for an opponent he respected? No, he'd do that for somebody not to be taken seriously, a less than honorable opponent. Sammartino was demeaning Zbyszko in front of the world.

So Zbyszko took a chair and beat Sammartino bloody. And predictably, the idiot fans are shocked at Zbyszko's actions. What does Sammartino have to do for the fans to get wise?

is to Sammartino's credit that could make the fans love him while he systematically tried to destroy Larry Zbyszko's career.

I welcome Larry Zbyszko to the ranks of those called rulebreaker. There is still time for him to realize his potential. It's a shame that his younger years were destroyed by a man whose reputation is as false as his legend."

There is still time for Larry Zbyszko to be great. We can hope his greatness will drive Bruno Sammartino out of wrestling. ☐

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We receive many requests from collectors all over the world for back issues which were sold out long ago. Some collectors offered as much as \$25 for a single rare back issue. Unfortunately, we could not comply because not even one copy remained.

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These are the issues available at this time in very limited quantities:

THE WRESTLER

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SPORTS REVIEW

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help vets."



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ONE ON ONE

(Continued from Page 47)

saying this as a friend. I think I understand your pain. I really do.

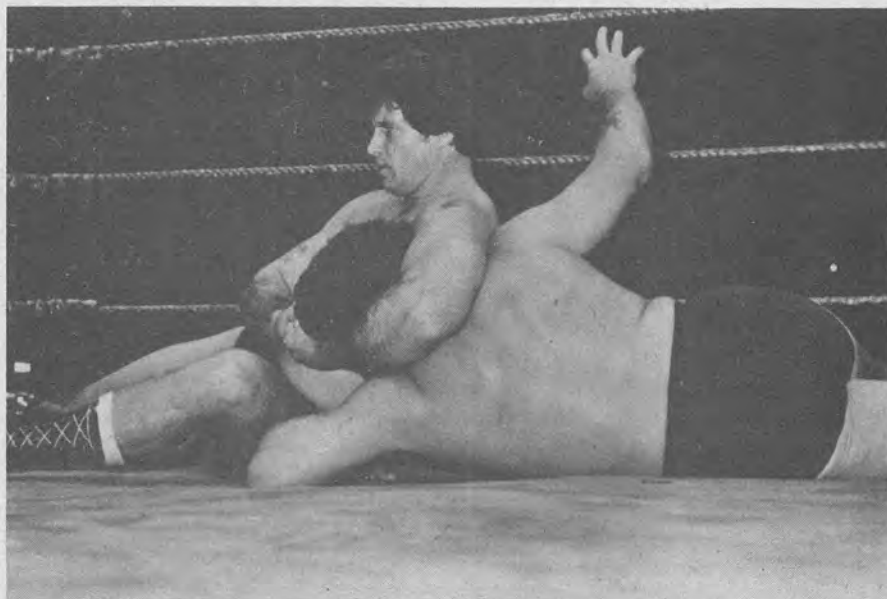
LZ: You know how it is.

TG: Yes, I truly do, I'm not just saying that. I understand the

TG: Don't be sarcastic . . .

LZ: I'm not. I respect your opinion. Tell me what other path I could have taken.

TG: You could have wrestled, uh, scientifically.



Larry Zbyszko did not seem upset when he was passed up for a title shot with Harley Race. His partner, Tony Garea, was given the match when the NWA champion came to New York in January 1979 (above). Garea stretches to tag Larry during a WWF defense (below).



frustrations and know how they can build up. All I'm saying is your way might have been wrong.

LZ: What should I have done?

LZ: I did that.

TG: You could have, oh, maybe put more distance between you and Sammartino, maybe wrestled in a different area.



Zbyszko was thought to be content to share the WWF tag team title with Garea, but even then he suffered from a lack of identity.

LZ: And been billed as Bruno's protege, asked when I was going to team with Bruno, how's Bruno, is he coming to this area. You know that would have happened.

TG: Maybe you're right.

LZ: I know I'm right, damnit. I had to attack Sammartino. I have to get rid of him. He'll never accept me as an equal, I know that. I will not live in his shadow; I won't. I have too much to give to wrestling, too much to give to myself to accept that condition.

TG: People hate you, Larry.

LZ: If I hadn't done this, my friend, I would have hated myself. And that's the worst hate of all.

TG: Can you go on like this?

LZ: I must.

TG: Remember, if you need a sympathetic ear, give me a buzz.

LZ: I appreciate that, Tony.

TG: Good luck.

LZ: I'll surely need it. ☐

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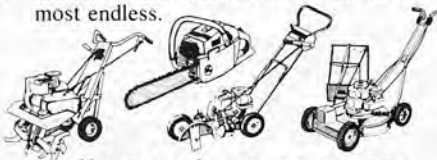
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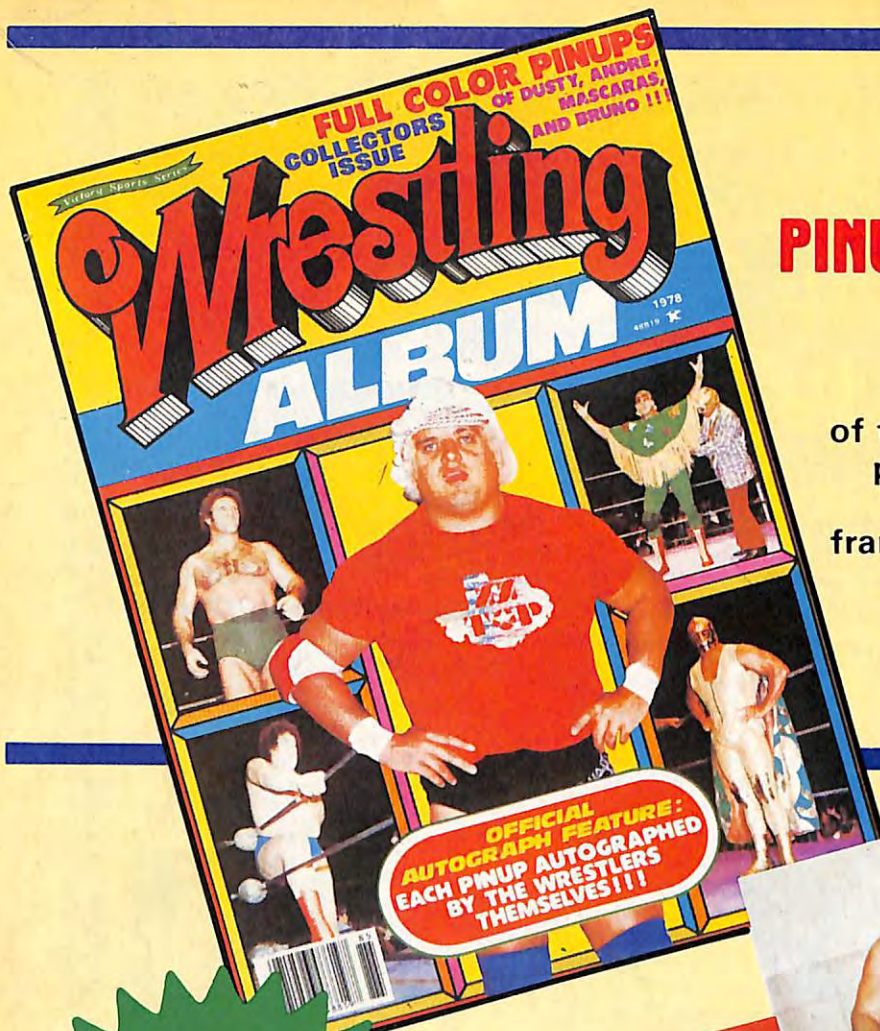
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